



Commerce Connection

Business Is Good

In This Issue

Learn how to navigate voting in Vermont this election, socially distant ways to enjoy our fall season, and more in October's Commerce Connection.

We also spotlight our member Rabbit Hill Inn.

October 2020

Chamber News

Seal, Sign, and Send!

The Vermont Secretary of State's office sent ballots out by mail to registered voters. Voters are encouraged to return ballots by mail to their local town clerk several weeks before the November 3 general election.



[What to know about voting this year](#)



Vermont Chamber Cohosts Candidate Forums

The Vermont Chamber partnered with Let's Grow Kids and the Vermont Housing Finance Agency to cohost nonpartisan governor and lieutenant governor candidate forums.

[Watch full forums](#)

Socially Distant Ways to Enjoy Vermont This Fall

Our Vice President of Tourism Amy Spear shares socially distant ways to enjoy Vermont's fall season this year.

[Read in Vermont Business Magazine](#)



Photo by Sally Cooper

Successful Opposition to U.S. Tariff on Canadian Aluminum

Our Vice President of Business Development Chris Carrigan was interviewed by the Rutland Herald and [welcomed the U.S. decision to remove a 10 percent tariff on Canadian aluminum](#). In partnership with our Canadian partners, and, with the support of the governors of Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire, the Vermont Chamber helped lead [opposition](#) to this tariff, which would have raised costs, lowered sales revenues, and placed Vermont manufacturers at a competitive disadvantage in the aerospace, industrial, and medical device industries.

[Read](#)

Vermont Futures Project Survey and Tax Recommendations

A recent survey from our partners at The Vermont Futures Project, and the University of Vermont, [shows](#) that of respondents who moved to Vermont to “shelter in place” during the pandemic – 1/3 are likely or very likely to stay. Vermont Futures Project Executive Director Lori Smith also recently [presented](#) key tax recommendations to the Vermont Tax Structure Commission.

[Watch](#)

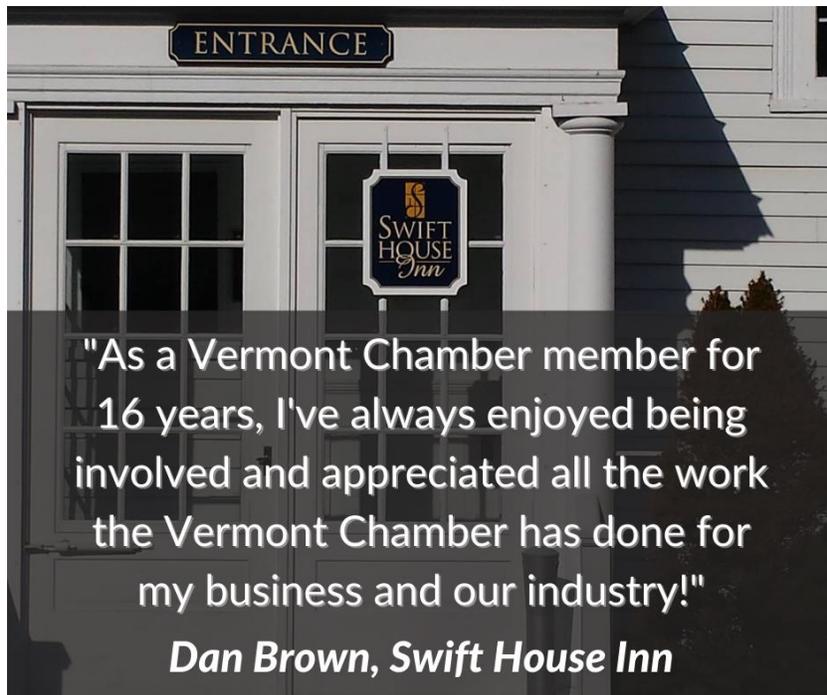


Welcome New Board Members

Please join us in welcoming our *new* Board Members Lynn Green of *Four Chimneys Inn* in Bennington, Willie Docto of *Moose Meadow Lodge* in Waterbury, and Bill Nupp of *Stratton Mountain Resort* in Stratton. Our Board of Directors consists of 25 leaders

throughout the state representing varied industries and geographic sectors to reflect our diverse membership.

[*View our full Board of Directors*](#)



"As a Vermont Chamber member for 16 years, I've always enjoyed being involved and appreciated all the work the Vermont Chamber has done for my business and our industry!"

Dan Brown, Swift House Inn

Thank You for Supporting Us

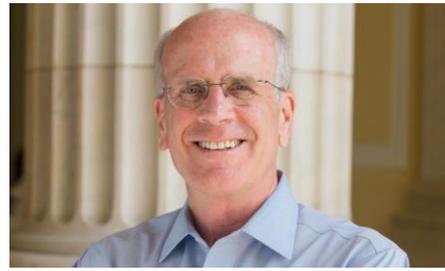
The most important thing we can ask is that you continue supporting the Vermont Chamber of Commerce as we support you and your fellow businesses across Vermont. We are in this together.

[*About Vermont Chamber membership*](#)

Member News

Virtual Policy Series Kickoff

Vermont Chamber members are invited to get up to speed on important federal issues with Congressman Peter Welch during the first event in our Virtual Policy Series. This *kickoff event* on October 19, an opportunity for personal access to a key Vermont leader, is available at no cost for members of chambers of commerce across the state.



[*Register for October 19, 2:15 p.m.*](#)

Help for Restaurants and Lodges

The Vermont Chamber has partnered with *On the Fly*, a grassroots collection of business experts in the hospitality field, to provide technical assistance to restaurants and lodging establishments. This assistance will pair On the Fly experts with owners to address challenges, goals, and concerns due to the pandemic, and help develop a plan to address them.

[*More geographic- and challenge-specific resources*](#)



Vermont Businesses Helping Communities

We are adding regularly to our page, How Vermont Businesses Are Helping Our Communities.

Recent additions include Vermont Chamber member *Vermont Housing Finance Agency extending the application period for their Vermont COVID Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program*, ECHO Leahy Center launching two programs to support Vermont families: *ECHO Virtual STEM Academy* and *ECHO Care and Enrichment*, and more.

[*Read more*](#)

2021 Best Places to Work

Are you one of the best places to work in Vermont? These awards, co-presented by the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, honor exceptional workplaces across the state.

[Learn more and register](#)



Member Spotlight

This month's Member Spotlight shines on the [Rabbit Hill Inn](#) in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom.

This outstanding adult-only getaway destination was recently named #1 Best Hotel in the Northeast, #3 in the USA, and #39 in the World by Travel+Leisure. Start planning your romantic staycation now. Enjoy the beautiful rural setting, luxurious accommodations, and Four Diamond Award-winning cuisine in a comfortable, casual setting. Experience unparalleled hospitality and a near-endless variety of area activities and attractions. Spacious common areas and the cozy Snooty Fox Pub will lure you "back home" after your fun-filled days. Discover for yourself why the luxurious Rabbit Hill Inn is a "deliciously romantic Vermont experience!"



WELCOME NEW VERMONT CHAMBER MEMBERS

- HORST Engineering
- Pivot Marketing



Learn about *HORST Engineering* and *Pivot Marketing*. Visit *our membership page* for benefits and contacts.

Save The Date

- [VT SHRM State Council - Cultivating Transgender Affirming Workplaces](#)
- [VT Chamber - Virtual Policy Series: Featuring Congressman Welch, Oct. 19](#)

The Virtual Policy Series event with Congressman Welch is for members of chambers of commerce across the state. To learn about Vermont Chamber membership, please [email Erica Canada](#).

#ThinkVermont

- [GMP's Energy Storage Programs Saved Customers During Energy Peaks](#)
- [The Wilson House Needs Your Help](#)
- [A Journey to Promote Scouting's Outdoor Programs](#)
- [Marathon Health Saves Employers \\$22.5 Million During Pandemic](#)
- [The Tech Group Joins New Charter Technologies](#)
- [Montpelier's Historic Wayside Restaurant Survives Its Second Pandemic](#)

This section features news about Vermont Chamber members.

Email news@vtchamber.com with your news.

In Other News

- [Can Vt. Businesses Salvage Fall Tourism Season?](#)
- [For This Small State, a Huge Share of Federal Coronavirus Funding](#)
- [Cioffi/Smith: Staying Safe Online](#)
- [Restart Vermont Technical Assistance Announced](#)

- [ClearChoiceMD Urgent Care Offering COVID-19 Testing](#)



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[MVP Health Care](#)

Now, more than ever, MVP has Vermont businesses covered, combining value, innovation, and peace of mind. MVP offers a wide range of plan options, at Vermont's lowest rates for small businesses, and breakthrough funding solutions to help large

businesses reduce and control their costs. MVP plans feature access to top doctors in Vermont and more than one million providers nationwide. They also offer more value for employees, such as FREE telemedicine and the ability to earn up to \$600 in WellBeing Rewards. New for 2021: MVP proudly introduces Gia, a "digital front door" that will help employees get the right care, right away.

It's all backed by MVP's personal service, and a more than 20-year commitment to keeping Vermont businesses healthy and strong. For more information, contact your broker or visit mvphealthcare.com/vermont.

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