



Courier

serving the Rutland Region for over 100 years

May 2008

Courier

Volume 22, Number 5

23rd Annual Golf Classic & Awards Banquet June 5th - Key"Bank" Challenge Continues



Spring is coming and warmer weather is upon us, it is time to break out your golf clubs.

The Rutland Region Chamber of Commerce 23rd Annual Golf Classic sponsored by KeyBank will take place on June 5, 2008 at the Killington Golf Resort. The day will include a shot gun start at 1pm

with a fun day of golf, great goody bags, a chance to win a 2009 Honda Pilot from Shearer Honda & Hull Maynard Hersey Insurance Agency for a designated Hole In One and a Hot Tub from Allen Pools & Spas for a designated Hole In One, a grand buffet awards dinner and great door prizes!

Trophies and prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place Gross & Net and Men's and Women's Closest to the Pin and Longest Drive. Back this year will be the Key "Bank" Challenge with trophies going to the first and last place banks.

The awards dinner will take place at Killington Grand Hotel with guest Master of Ceremonies J.J. Cioffi, Sports Director at WCAX-TV.

The tournament format is Captain & Crew with teams of four players. The cost of the tournament is \$125 per person and includes greens fees, cart rental, awards dinner, goody bags, a chance to win great door prizes, team prizes and trophies. The awards dinner buffet

will include: BBQ Chicken, Brisket of Beef, Chili, Mixed Salad, Corn on the Cob, Roasted Red Potatoes, New England Style Baked Beans, Corn Bread & Assorted Rolls, Fresh Baked Pies, Coffee, Tea & Cash Bar.

This is a great business networking opportunity and an important Chamber Fundraiser.

Sign up today by calling RRCC at 802-773-2747 or by filling out the form enclosed in this issue of the *Courier*.

4th of July Fireworks Extravaganza!

The Rutland Region Chamber of Commerce will light up the skies over Rutland again this 4th of July with another action packed Fireworks Extravaganza!

The fireworks will begin at exactly 9:45pm concluding the fair's activities, which include a flea market, demolition derby, music and more.

We are still looking for sponsors for the Fireworks Extravaganza. If you are interested in helping us provide the Fireworks Extravaganza to the Rutland Region call Joan Hill at the RRCC office, call 773-2747 for more information.

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Welcome New Members

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Penny J. Inglee

Marketing & Project Manager

Joan Hill

Director of Membership Development

Ann Marie Clifford

Information & Finance Manager

Committee Chairs

Public Policy Committee

Doug Babbitt

775-8500

Membership Development

Steve White

775-0510

Special Events

Donna Blight

775-6062

Tourism Marketing

773-2747

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773-6251

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Winter In August

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The Courier is published monthly by the:

Rutland Region

Chamber of Commerce

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Sheila McCutcheon, Chittenden Bank; Justin Griffith, Ikon Office Solutions; Tad Kemnitzer, Chittenden Bank & Nicole Fabian Chittenden Bank at the April Chamber Mixer held at Shear Heaven Salon & Day Spa

Welcome New Members

The Village Porch

Connie Mendell

13 School St.

Rochester, VT 05767

Ph: 767-3126 Fax: 767-9721

Email: connie@occasionsvt.com

Candles in the windows and on the porch usher diners into this cozy restaurant. Order from the pub menu for casual food like burgers and cilantro lime chicken quesadillas, or try one of Chef Luke Stone's ever changing weekly specials.

Town of West Rutland

Mary Ann Goulette

35 Marble St.

West Rutland, VT 05777

Ph: 438-2263 Fax: 438-5133

www.wrutland.org

West Rutland's origins revolve around the marble industry. During the past decade they have concentrated on modernizing their infrastructure to their physical attributes match the strong community spirit. Newly renovated Town Hall celebrates 100 years.

Vermont Marble Exhibit

Robert Pye

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Proctor, VT 05765

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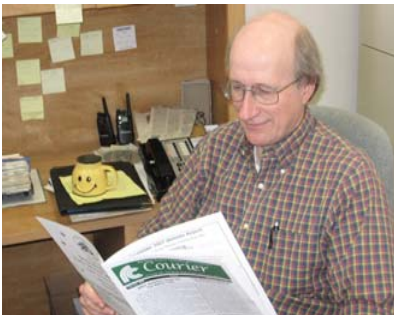
Development Corp.

Tom Macaulay

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Authority

Informed Chamber Members Read the RRCC Courier



Don Wickman, Downtown Rutland Partnership

Great Member Benefit

****Free****

Notary Services for Chamber Members Monday-Friday 8am-5pm at the RRCC offices, 256 N. Main St. Rutland. Call 773-2747 for more information

Legislative Activities



Governor Jim Douglas addresses those in attendance at the Luncheon during the annual Legislative Bus Trip to Montpelier sponsored by OMYA, Inc.

The Rutland Region Chamber of Commerce and Rutland Economic Development Corp. Public Policy Committee has been meeting bi-weekly to bring concerns of the local business community to the forefront in Montpelier. The committee has produced a Breakfast Series touching on important issues such as energy and health care. The breakfast series was sponsored by TD Banknorth. RRCC & REDC members also made their annual trip to Montpelier on April 10th. This annual Legislative Bus Trip was a chance for members to meet with the Governor, Rutland County Delegation, Speaker of the House Gaye Symington, Lt. Governor Brian Dubie and be introduced to the Well of the House of Representatives by Representative David Potter. It also gave members an opportunity to testify in committees and see our government in action. The annual trip is sponsored by OMYA, Inc.



Lt. Governor Brian Dubie greets Erik Bohn of sponsor OMYA, Inc. and others who attended the Legislative Bus Trip to Montpelier upon arrival at the State House.



Lt. Governor Brian Dubie greets Peter Giancola, President, Rutland Economic Development Corporation.



Speaker of the House Gaye Symington addresses RRCC/REDC members in the Senate Chambers



Senator Bill Carris updates the group in the Senate Chambers

Vermont Convention Bureau Update

We're Teaming Up to Attract Meetings & Events to Vermont!

We Need Your Help!

The Rutland Region Chamber of Commerce and the Vermont Convention Bureau are teaming up to attract meetings, conferences and events to Vermont. The economic impact of these group programs is huge. One hundred delegates from out-of-state who stay three nights in Vermont spend about \$85,000, generating about \$6,500 in state taxes.

Holiday Inn Rutland/Killington's Ted Bridges, a long-time leader involved with both RRCC and VCB, chairs this major collaboration on behalf of VCB. RRCC members, however, will make or break this new program. Most RRCC members are affiliated with one or more of these organizations: corporate, professional, fraternal, faith-based, educational, alumni, clubs, arts, sports, hobby, etc.

We ask **YOU** to partner with us to co-invite your organizations to hold regional, national and international programs in Vermont. All we need from **YOU** is the name of your organization, your role with the organization, and permission to use your name.

Please complete the form inserted in this newsletter and send it to Dave Hakins, Executive Director, Vermont Convention Bureau, 60 Main Street, Suite 100, Burlington, VT 05401, fax 802-863-1538, phone 802-860-0606, x230, dave@vermont.org. The Vermont Convention Bureau will research the name and contact data of your organizations' event planners and invite them to bring their meetings, conferences and events to Vermont. The VCB sales staff will reference your name in their letters and phone calls.

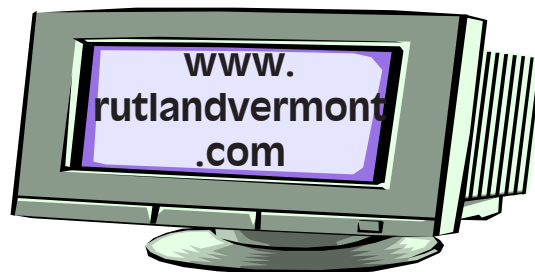
If VCB sales staff sources a lead from your referral, Rutland Region resort and hotel members of the Vermont Convention Bureau will receive notice of the opportunity before members elsewhere in the state. In the end, the meeting planner will choose the host facility. Imagine your pride when your organization comes to Vermont with a large group of out-of-state guests who enjoy our hospitality and return home bragging about the Green Mountain State!

With your help, we have a tremendous opportunity to make a major economic impact on the Rutland Region and Vermont. Thanks for your teamwork! We'll keep you posted on the results of this collaboration.

March 2008 Website Report

Top Chamber Web Site Member Listing Page Hits

1. Lodging 19,946
2. Attractions 14,936
3. Restaurants 12,731



4. Real Estate 6,796
5. Retail 5,706
6. Finance 4,583

Other Top Page Hits of Interest

Calendar 43,843	Things To Do 15,900
Visiting 12,486	Shopping 7,406
Perk List 6,802	Jobs 5,512

From Our Members/Classes/Workshops

BROC-Community Action in Southwestern Vermont is pleased to announce the receipt of a \$1,500 contribution from **Stewart's Foundation** through the Holiday Match Program run during the last holiday season.

KoSA International Percussion Workshops returns to Castleton State College July 30-August 3, 2008. The workshop is a hands on intensive percussion camp which includes a diverse range of styles and techniques. For more information: www.kosamusic.com or call 800-541-8401

Marble Valley Regional Transit District (The Bus) and Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR) will expand public transit bus service between Rutland and Middlebury to include midday service twice a week. For more information go to www.thebus.com or call 773-3244 ext. 117

Rutland Area Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice is launching a travel immunization program this spring. The RAVNAH Travel Health Clinic will provide vaccines and individualized disease prevention plans, safe travel health services to international travelers. For more information call 770-1536.

Rutland Dismas House will hold their 18th Annual Benefit Dinner & Auction on June 1st starting at 3pm. There will be live music, silent and live auctions, dinner and a keynote speaker. The speaker will be Marietta Jaeger Lane author of *The Lost Child*. For more information call 802-824-3660.

The Carving Studio and Sculpture Studio invites sculptors to submit proposals for SculptFest08, September 13-October 26. The theme for this year's event is "Human Interventions and the Industrial Landscape", guest curator will

be Carlos Sorrien, Sculpture Professor at Wellesley College. For more information go to www.carvingstudio.org or call 438-2097.

United Way of Rutland County in conjunction with the National Association of Letter Carriers #495 will be conducting its annual food drive on May 10, 2008. Food donations are collected on carrier routes throughout Rutland County or can be dropped at the Rutland City Post Office. For more information call 773-7477.

VocRehab Vermont has honored six local businesses with the "Director's Award" for their outstanding work employing and supporting Vermonters with disabilities through hiring and training practices and through leadership in their local communities and across the state. The local winner was Mendon Mountain Orchards.

32nd Annual Crowley Brothers' Memorial Road Race

The 32nd Annual Crowley Brothers' Memorial Road Race Weekend will take place June 7-8, 2008. The Road Races are certified 10K/5K point to point races from Proctor to Rutland, VT. The event is dedicated to youth and adult fitness and heart health awareness.

The Race Weekend "kicks-off" on Saturday, June 7th with the 2nd Annual Sport and Fitness Expo at the Rutland Middle School's Keefe Gym, 10:00am-4:00pm. Race Day, Sunday June 8th, begins at 8:00am in Proctor with the traditional 10K race, 5K race, 5K walk, 10K re-lay, and corporate walk teams. At the same time start, starting in Rutland at 8am is the Kids' 9th Annual Downtown Mile Fun Run. During and after the events, the fun continues with Race Day raffle giveaways and on-site Health Fair held at Citizens Bank.

For more information and entry forms contact Michael & Paula Lannon - 558-2328 or 773-4913 ext. 4315. www.crowleyroadrace.com

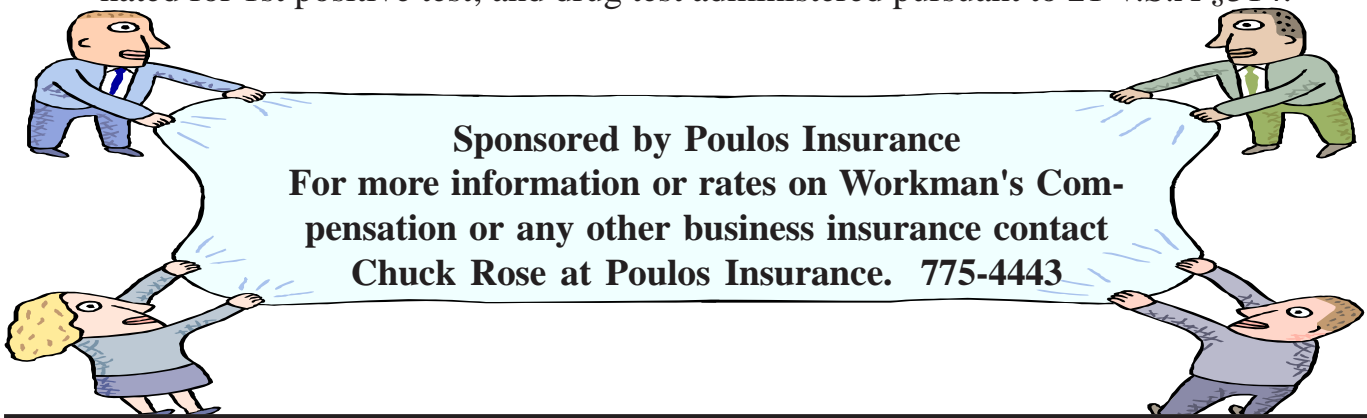
Workers' Comp. Corner

Drug Testing

Employers may perform drug testing of employees and/or of applicants only under the following specific conditions.

Job applicants: Employment has been offered, conditional upon negative test result; written notice of the testing procedure, drugs to be tested and that therapeutic levels of medically prescribed drugs will not be reported; and the drug test is administered pursuant to 21 V.S.A. §514.

Employees: Probable cause to believe employee using/under the influence of a drug on the job; and, employee assistance program in place; and, employee may not be terminated for 1st positive test; and drug test administered pursuant to 21 V.S.A §514.



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Chuck Rose at Poulos Insurance. 775-4443

2008 Upcoming Chamber Events

- | | |
|---|--|
| May 13: RRCC Mixer @ Citizens Bank, 5-7pm | July 8: RRCC Mixer @ Chaffee Art Center, 5-7pm |
| June 5: RRCC Golf Classic @ Killington Resort, 1pm start | August 12: RRCC Winter In August Celebration in Center St. Alley, 5-8pm |
| June 10: RRCC Mixer @ Custom Audio Designs, 5-7pm | September 9: RRCC Mixer @ Lang McLaughry Spera, 5-7pm |
| July 4: RRCC 4th of July Fireworks Extravaganza at Vermont State Fairgrounds | October 14: RRCC Mixer @ Lake Sunapee Bank, 5-7pm |

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Rutland Region Workforce Investment Board Nancy Burzon, Executive Director



Strengthening the Next Generation Workforce by Corrie Miller, Associate Director of Smokey House Center

Smokey House Center and Stafford Technical Center have joined forces to address emerging workforce needs in the Rutland region. Preparing local young people for success in the workplace is not new for either organization—for the past thirty-four years Smokey House's Youthwork Program has taught basic workplace skills, attitudes, and habits by engaging youth in hands-on farm and forestry work while Stafford's technical programs have helped high-school students learn career-specific goals and skills.

A combination of demographic trends—an aging population and an exodus of educated youth—portends a deficit of skilled workers in our region. In response Smokey House and Stafford are working together to offer a Pre-Tech program—funded in part through Vermont's *Next Generation* legislation—that better prepares high school students for success in the twenty-first century workplace. Since there's no better place to learn about work than on the job, the Pre-Tech program builds upon Smokey House's recognized work-based learning model and uses the 5,000 acre site in Danby as an outdoor classroom and worksite. Because students' workplace success is founded in their preparation, the Pre-Tech program incorporates Stafford's career exploration and planning expertise. Over the course of their employment at Smokey House, the Pre-Tech students work with Vermont Department of Labor youth specialists, the RRWIB, and a career counselor to investigate employment and education opportunities, formulate career goals and a career plan, and set their plan into action. At the same time, the students work on various natural resource projects to not only learn basic workplace expectations, but also to expand their career-specific skill set.

The Pre-Tech program targets ninth and tenth grade applied learners who are too young for Stafford programming but need a relevant, hands-on experience to stay committed to their learning. These students—who might otherwise fall through the cracks—gain the motivation, organizational skills, and prerequisites needed to apply to Stafford Tech. For these young people, the Pre-Tech experience is a critical first step to future workplace success.

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Membership Directors Update ~ Joan Hill

Hi Everyone,

Thank you to Shear Heaven Salon & Day Spa for hosting the April mixer. The food catered by Sports Legends Restaurant, presentation, and door prizes were excellent.

Each month in the newsletter I will be highlighting a different chamber benefit to keep you informed of the advantages of being a member of the Rutland Region Chamber of Commerce.

May's Benefit of the Month is the monthly mixers hosted by various businesses in Rutland County. Chamber mixers are a great opportunity for area business people to get together and network. Your chamber hosts 21 special events every year which include the mixers. Try to attend one soon and bring your business cards!

Welcome to our new members Café Terra, Ikon Office Solutions, Maple Hill Home Inspection, LLC, Thrive Center of the Green Mountains, Inc., The Village Porch, Town of West Rutland and the Vermont Marble Exhibit.

The Chamber will be hosting our 23rd annual Golf Classic at Killington on June 5th sponsored by Key Bank. This is the premiere golf tournament in Rutland County. If you would like to sponsor a hole or reserve a team, please contact the Chamber office as soon as possible.

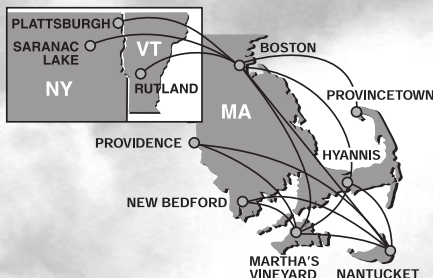
NEW PERK this month: The Party Store is offering a \$5.00 savings on purchases of \$25.00 or more.

REMINDER Your membership investment is tax deductible with the exception of 2% (2% is used for lobbying expenses and are not tax deductible under the US Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993).

Once again the Chamber will put on the "Fireworks Extravaganza" at the Vermont State Fairgrounds on July 4th. If you would like to sponsor this event which is free to the public and attended by thousands, please call me at the chamber office.

Join a committee, offer perk card discounts and get involved to receive the most benefits from your Chamber. I look forward to seeing you all at the next mixer on May 13th at the Citizens Bank on Merchants Row.

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Merchants: Be Alert

by James P. Mongeon, State's Attorney

Welcome to GREEN UP MONTH

We have all heard of Vermont's **Green Up Day**. It has been around since 1970.

This year it is on May 3rd. A lot of people put in a lot of effort to pick up trash which melting snowbanks uncover. Green Up Day focuses our attention to the clean up issue for a particular day and encourages everyone to participate.

For business owners May should be your Green Up Month. It is good to start with Green Up Day, but a business can't close down for a day to clean up. Further, your clean up may be more than just raking up whatever has been exposed by melting snows. You want your business and premises to look inviting to customers. There are many things you can do besides raking. Focus on May as the month to clean up, fix up, and toward the end of the month (as it gets warmer) for painting.

Your business location does not exist as an island. There are neighboring premises which impact on the public's visual perception of your business. Working together, businesses in a particular area can help each other and thereby increase potential sales.

Pick up and clean up does not mean high costs. Many simple improvements can be done with little expense, it just takes some effort. By spreading the effort out over the month, there is no negative impact on your business. Yet by the end of the month you have good results. This is also a good time to look for security issues (inspect doors and windows) and look for liability issues (steps, railings etc that need repair).

Every effort to clean up makes a difference to your community. Your community is your support in customers, employees, and business opportunities. May is your month to Green Up and get ready for the business benefits of the coming Vermont Summer.

Project Board Member Graduation

United Way of Rutland County and the James T Bowse Community Health Trust would like to congratulate the third graduating class of Project Board Development, a leadership training to strengthen non profit board of directors in Rutland County.

Participants of the program were engaged in a 5 week educational class involving instruction in non profit basics, community relations/marketing, finances/budgets, organization oversight and liability/legal matters.

Project Board Development participants were honored in an informal graduation ceremony on April 3rd at Heritage Family Credit Union on West Street. Agencies seeking board leadership were invited to meet and greet the participants in a gathering hosted by The Rutland Herald. Chuck Sharp, Director of United Way and Sarah Narkewicz, Director of the Bowse Trust are planning another class for spring 2009.

Congratulations to the graduates of the 2008 Project Board Development class: Jim Breton, Nicole Breton, Jenny Nixon Carter, Justin Griffith, Sue Hommel, Rebecca Majoya, Kiki McShane, Laura Medlin, Jeff Milem, Russ North, Shari O'Brien, Jenn Pattillo, Mark Puryear, Stacia Reveal, Megan Smith, Joe Stuhlmüller, Lisa Tager and Rosemary Vanderburg.



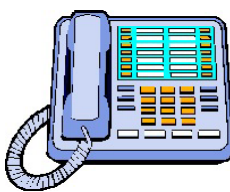
Computer Ease By: Larry Gold

Laptop Screens.....Fair Warning

Recently, we've been getting a rash of busted laptop LCD screens, and it seems to get people really, really, really upset to find out that the replacement cost for a laptop screen can be expensive. Most customers don't get excited about turning it into a desktop with an external monitor. I mean, how can they sell a complete laptop for \$800 and then tell you that the replacement screen for your laptop is \$395? To some degree, that would mean that the rest of the computer, including case, mainboard, CPU, hard drive, memory, and the rest is only worth \$400. Make sense? Well, not really. One customer has a 1-year old major name brand (I won't say what brand, but it's only two letters) laptop, with a 17" screen. He shoved it carefully into the case, put in the rest of his accessories including A/C adapter, and when he took it out, the screen was cracked. Not under warranty of course, and HP wanted \$900 for the replacement screen. How do they figure? Not sure, but, we found a generic one for only \$200, plus shipping and labor to swap it out. Total cost will be in the \$300-400 price range. It might be hard to justify, if a replacement laptop computer is only \$1000 or less. Don't get me wrong, I do understand why this is. It has to do with economies of scale, and the manufacturing process, and how it costs less to just put one in on the assembly line by a robot or a \$1.00 an hour employee, and how replacement screens need to be shipped, stored, sorted, and resold at a profit. The point here is, lots-0-laptops are being sold today, a much higher percentage than before, and if you have one, be really, really, really, careful with it. Enough said!

May Chamber Meetings & Events

- 5 Public Policy Committee, 7:30am
- 6 Special Events Committee, 8:30am
- 6 Tourism Marketing Committee, 11:30am
- 8 Membership Development Committee, 8:30am
- 13 Mixer @ Citizens Bank, 5-7pm
- 19 Public Policy Committee, 7:30am
- 28 Board of Directors Meeting, 12:15pm



The Rutland Region Chamber of Commerce fielded 734 phone inquiries during the month of March 2008

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May Chamber Mixer!

Tuesday, May 13, 2008 ~ 5-7pm

Location: Corner of Merchants Row and West St.
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~Door Prizes~



Next Month: Mixer @ Custom Audio Designs, June 10 5-7pm