

Winter 2021 Newsletter



Dear Demetrius,

Please take a moment and enjoy our Winter 2021 Newsletter. In this update, we look at our new [Kick Start Middlebury Program](#) with the Addison County Chamber of Commerce and Better Middlebury Partnership. Many local businesses are [hiring](#), and if you have a moment please take [Vermont's Outdoor Economy Survey](#).

Enjoy,
ACEDC

From the desk of the Executive Director

We are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. As Congress passes another COVID relief program, vaccinations are rolling out, we are all planning for warmer weather and the possibility of gathering together. In community and economic development, we are planning for the post-pandemic economy. Delayed projects are getting back on track. New ideas and projects are being developed that incorporate adjustments for the new reality.

At ACEDC, we will continue to closely examine the funding flowing from Washington and the resulting programs and services. We will continue to keep Addison County businesses informed and, when appropriate, administer COVID-related programs as requested. But we

are also applying to programs that may build capacity here at ACEDC and among our partners to prepare for the post-pandemic economy. We are also working to learn what jobs Addison County businesses are trying to fill, what training is required to fill those jobs, and what re-training is required for folks that have lost their jobs.

With the rail and bridge project wrapping up, another area of activity is forward-looking planning for when Amtrak starts running through Middlebury and Vergennes (technically New Haven!). The next big infrastructure project in Middlebury is the rail platform. ACEDC and the Chamber are anticipating that visitors will once again come back to Vermont. We are working together and with the town and state to ensure that the region is marketed as a destination and that there are connections provided between the rail stops and our downtowns and hospitality properties.

ACEDC is also partnering with the Better Middlebury Partnership and the Chamber on the [Kick Start Middlebury](#), which is offering a package of start-up resources for new or expanding businesses that will open in Middlebury. This is an exciting program that may serve as a pilot for future investment in other Addison County downtowns.

Thank You,
Fred Kenney

ACEDC News Updates

[New Board Members](#)

ACEDC Board appointed John Roberts, Executive Director of the Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition, Ron Hallman, Vice President of Communications and Engagement at the UVM Health Network Porter Medical Center, and Dave Castle, Director of Operations at Mechanical Advantage, LLC to fill the expanded board seats. The Board also welcomed Renny Perry, former Vergennes City Manager, City Council Member, and Mayor as the newly designated Board member from the City of Vergennes.



[Welcome to our newest members](#)

[Repiculture LLC](#) works with farms as small as

[Kick Start Middlebury](#) is a new initiative that will offer packages of valuable start-up incentives to at least three applicants to locate a new or expanded operation in Middlebury. Each package includes free or discounted services and products donated by area businesses, a \$10,000 grant made available by the Town of Middlebury, and various benefits provided by property owners.

one acre and businesses as large as multinational corporations. Our mission is to move the needle on agricultural sustainability, whatever the scale and nature of your business.

[Mechanical Advantage](#) is a solar-powered, CNC machine shop that provides small and large companies with product design, prototyping, and manufacturing solutions.

REPliculture



Mechanical Advantage LLC

Our Members in the News

- [M&T to acquire People's United Bank in \\$7.6 billion deal](#)
- [Bee's Wrap Sold to Private Investor](#)
- [Wholesale bakery on the upswing in Bristol](#)
- [Loan program gives a boost to a local mechanic \(photo right\)](#)
- [Wooden Hammer grows into new digs with help from ACEDC](#)
- [Panton farm's Agricola Meats is expanding](#)
- [Eat Local VT App Maps Out Farms and Food Producers](#)
- [Lighting is at the core of VT Cider Co.'s savings](#)
- [Custom solutions help local businesses do more for Vermonters](#)





KEVIN HARPER STARTED out as an entrepreneur in 1977, co-founding the organic cosmetic company known as Autumn Harp. Today, he is the president of Bristol Bakery Wholesale, a specialty foods enterprise that manufactures cookies and crackers in Bristol. Independent photo/Steve James '

[Read More](#)



- WhistlePig and Ben & Jerry's mix it up with 'Whiskey Biz'
- Bob Foster: Vermont farmers are covering good ground for soil health
- C&C sells Woodchuck Cider for \$20 million to Northeast Drinks

Community Business News



- [Governor's Institute of VT Entrepreneurship applications is open!](#)
- [UVM Micro Internship Program](#)
- [Tips for Finding Your Best Export Markets](#)
- [Vermont Soap wins Spirit of the ADA Award presented by the Governor's Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities](#)
- [Gov. Scott announces creation of future of agriculture commission](#)
- [Vermont Agriculture & Food System Strategic Plan 2021-2030](#)
- [Audacious entrepreneurs wanted](#)
- [Recovery Grants Available for Sole Proprietor Businesses](#)
- [Green Mountain Power Workplace EV Charging Pilot](#)

[Take Vermont's Outdoor Economy Survey](#)

The Vermont Outdoor Business Alliance (VOBA) has launched a survey to capture the current scope of Vermont's outdoor recreation economy. The pandemic has heightened the importance of outdoor recreation as an economic driver for Vermont's communities as people turn to physical activity and the mental health it affords. VOBA's survey intends to capture the state of Vermont's outdoor businesses and organizations by gathering benchmark data, changing trends, and needs for future sector support and development in the areas of financing, workforce, infrastructure, and branding.

Business Resources

Community Events

April 1st - [The eMakery Virtual Sewing](#)

Employment Opportunities

[Middlebury Studio School](#)

Lab: Visible Mending

April 7th - SAM Series – Understand SAM, CAGE & DUNS

April 8th - SAM Series – Notarized Letter Process

April 9th - SAM Series – DSBS

April 13 -Healthy Communities: Local Approaches to Promote Mental Health and Tackle Substance Misuse

April 15th - Intro to VT PTAC

April 21st - To Bid or Not – Reading and Responding to RFPs

April 27th - Framing a Process for Public Engagement: Strengthening Our Work By Broadening The Conversation

May 11 - Healthy Communities: Local Recreation Programs, Trails, and Facilities to Get Us Active and Outdoors

Every Tuesday - VtSBA: PPP Forgiveness Webinars Tuesdays

Every Wednesday - VtSBA: PPP First and Second Draw Webinar

Bee's Wrap

Human Resource Director at WhistlePig Whiskey

Vermont Coffee Company

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum

Household Head at Yellow House Community

Agricola Farm Assistants Program

Meat Processing at Vermont Livestock S and P

Middlebury Natural Food Co-op

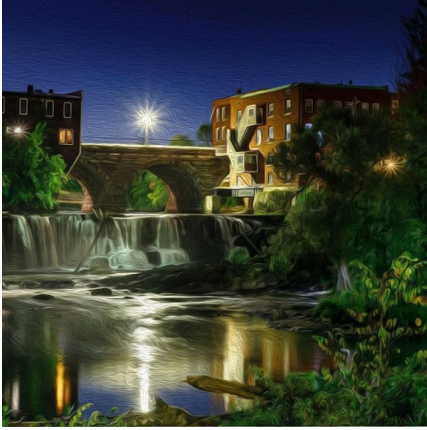
LNA Trainee at Porter Medical Center

Highlighted Partner: Better Middlebury Partnership

Our spirit of innovation, our unquenchable thirst of curiosity and our strength as a community makes Middlebury a very special place to live and discover.

Our community is engaged and committed. Look no further than the Better Middlebury Partnership (BMP), a civic organization dedicated to making the Greater Middlebury community a better place to live, work and play. The BMP is excited to support local businesses through signature community events, and various initiatives.

If you want to get involved, we love volunteers! We offer a variety of



opportunities such as event assistance and community development work.
Jump in and help make Middlebury better than ever!

[Contact us by email](#)

[Learn about volunteer opportunities!](#)



[Addison County Economic Development Corporation](#)

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[Website](#)

ACEDC activities are made possible, in part, by a grant from the State of Vermont through the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. Loan programs are made possible by USDA/Rural Development. ACEDC is an equal opportunity service provider and lender, with all services and funds available on a non-discriminatory basis.



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