



Rutland Region Chamber of Commerce

# Courier

serving the Rutland Region for over 100 years

November 2008

Courier

Volume 22, Number 11

## RRCC Invites You To The 110th Annual Meeting Gene DeFilippo to be Keynote Speaker



Time is growing near, sign up now for the 110th Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors and Membership of the Rutland Region Chamber of Commerce. This year's Annual Meeting will be sponsored by General Electric. The meeting will take place at noon on November 19, 2008 at the Holiday Inn, Rutland.

Highlights of the meeting will include Keynote Speaker Gene DeFilippo sponsored by Rutland Regional Medical Center. Mr. DeFilippo is the Director of Athletics at Boston College. Gene DeFilippo has led the BC athletics program to an unprecedented period of innovation, growth, fundraising, athletic and academic success.

The much anticipated "Business Person of the Year Award" will be presented. Past recipients include Bob Young and the employees of CVPS; Tom Dowling, Ryan Smith & Carbine, Ltd; John Casella, Casella Waste Systems; Richard Giles, Kalow Controls; Allen Gartner, Mintzer Brothers; Mac Allen, Sherman V. Allen Inc.; Joe & Barbara Giancola, Giancola Construction; R. John Mitchell, Rutland Herald; Mark Foley, Foley Services/Pistols & Roses and last year's recipient Phil Alderman, Alderman's Chevrolet & Toyota Superstores. There will also be a concise PowerPoint presentation of the Chamber's accomplishments over the past year.

The meeting will be held again this year in the ballroom at the Holiday Inn with a fabulous 3 course lunch served during the meeting. The cost of the event is \$29.50 per person. There will be great networking, music and door prizes.

We have always had a sold out crowd, a RSVP will be required by November 12th. We look forward sharing our successes with everyone this year! Please call 773-2747 or email [rccvt@aol.com](mailto:rccvt@aol.com)

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Calendar/Buy Local Inserted

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**Crossroads of Vermont****Partnership/Regional****Marketing Program**

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Donna Blight

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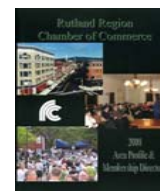
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working on the 2009

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and call or email

the Chamber with any changes.

Ph: 802-773-2747

Email: rrcvvt@aol.com

## Here is a great opportunity to promote your business at no charge and help the American Red Cross at the same time.

The Sixth Annual Gift-of-Life Marathon, the record-setting blood drive at the Paramount Theatre, is fast approaching, and with it an opportunity for local businesses to help the community and themselves.

Each year, CVPS, WJJR and WSYB organize this great event, and put together gift bags for all donors and volunteers. As you may know, well over 700 people donated blood last year, with more than 100 volunteers working.

This year, as part of the gift bags, they will include special coupons from local businesses as a gift to the donors, and to support the business community.

All you need to do is contact Christine Rivers at [crivers@cvps.com](mailto:crivers@cvps.com) by Nov. 21. The blood drive is Dec. 23. Coupons can be two-for-one, a specific percentage off one item, just about anything you'd like.

If you'd like to include a coupon in these gift bags, send the following information for inclusion on the coupons to Christine Rivers:

- \* The name of your business
- \* Your physical address
- \* Your phone number
- \* The special deal you'd like included on the coupon (50 percent off one item, two for one, etc.)
- \* An expiration date if desired and any special exclusions or other info you'd like included
- \* A high-quality logo for your business, preferably in a high-resolution PDF

Hope you can take advantage of this great opportunity to promote your business and help your community!



### 2009 Rutland Calendar Is Now On Sale!

The 2009 Rutland Calendar features 16 stunning photos of Rutland chosen from the 2008 *Capturing the Heart of Rutland* Amateur Photo Contest exhibited at the Chaffee Art Center. Included in the calendar are some of the award winners from the photo contest. The calendars will be on sale for \$20 (\$10 tax deductible). All proceeds support the programs at Rutland Dismas House, a transitional home for men and women coming out of prison.

Calendars will be on sale at the Farmer's Market on Saturdays and daily at the following convenient locations: Book King, Phototec, Rutland Dismas House, Rutland Free Library. The calendar will also be on sale at the Chaffee Art Center during Art in the Park Weekend, October 11 and 12.

For more information please contact Rutland Dismas House at 775-5539.

### Board of Directors

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Heritage Family Credit Union

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Rutland Regional Medical Center

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##### Phil Alderman

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## Information Can Set You Free!

A **FREE** Seminar

*Brought to you by:*

Catamount Radio and

Rutland Region Chamber of Commerce

Tuesday November 11<sup>th</sup> 9:30-11am

Holiday Inn Ballroom

What's more on everyone's mind today than the current economic situation? We feel nothing will make you feel more secure and less stressed than being armed with information...

Topics:

- *Outlook and Opportunities: Don't Fear the Bear* presented by Rob Kurchena of Edward Jones. Learn more about previous market cycles and recessions, issues affecting inflation and real estate and the current opportunities for long-term investors.
- Mike Quinn, Commissioner of Economic Development for the State of Vermont. He'll be discussing the current state of the Vermont's economy and how global markets effect doing business here.

Take every opportunity you can to arm yourself with information, especially when it's free!  
Call 802-776-7601 to reserve your spot



**Rutland Region  
Chamber of Commerce**

## From Our Members

**College of St. Joseph** is pleased to announce that The Vermont Country Store has made a three-year commitment of \$32,500 to assist the college with the financial needs of the STEPS program. For more information call 773-5900 ext. 3290.

**Killington Resort** is debuting its \$8.4 million in on mountain improvements and environmental programs to kick off its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday season. For more information call 422-3333 or go to [www.killington.com](http://www.killington.com)

**Okemo Mountain Resort** has received accolades and high honors from the readers of *SKI*, *Skiing* and *Transworld Snowboarding* magazines. For more information go to [www.okemo.com](http://www.okemo.com) or call 228-1600.

**Rutland County Parent Child Center** is holding a "Coats For Kids" drive through November 11<sup>th</sup>. Drop boxes for new or gently used coats for those in

need are located at Hannaford, Price Chopper, Grand Union and Rutland Library. For more information call 247-6660 or 345-3033.

**Rutland Regional Medical Center** asks that you participate in the "Rutland County Health Assessment". A team representing health and human services in Rutland County is conducting the assessment regarding the health needs of its residence. To participate go to [www.rrmc.org](http://www.rrmc.org) or call 747-3770.

**Rutland Winter Farmers Market** is now open in The Old Strand Theatre. The market will run Saturdays 10am-2pm. Call 287-9311 for more information.

**The Mentor Connector** is in need of Mentors to give one hour a week to help make Rutland County a better place. Even modest amounts of your time can make a difference in a child. For more information or to volunteer call Trish at 775-3434.

**The Salvation Army and Classic Hits 94.5 The Drive** are partnering for "Warm Coats, Warm Hearts" Coat Drive. You can drop off gently used or new coats for those in need at drop boxes located at The Salvation Army, McNeil & Reedy, Desjardins Jewelers, Durgins Cleaners and Modern Cleaners. For more information call 775-5150.

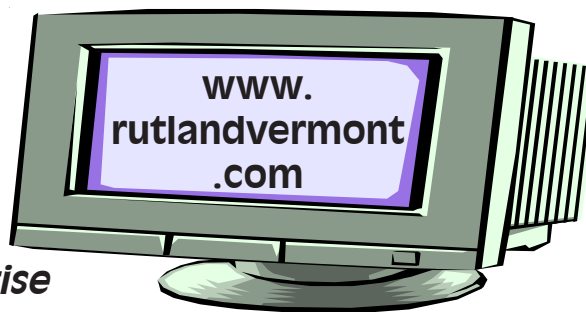
**Thrive Center of the Green Mountains** presents a Culinary Mini-Workshop in Raw Vegan Cuisine & The Importance of Whole Foods with instructor Phil Smith, The Vermont Raw Chef, paired with pre holiday trunk sales. The event will take place on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-9:00pm. Cost: \$5.00. To reserve your space call 446-2499.

## September 2008 Website Report

### Top Chamber Web Site Member Listing Page Views

1. Lodging 2,023
2. Attractions 1,519
3. Restaurants 1,151
4. Retail 445
5. Real Estate 286

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6. Services 210
7. Health 131
8. Construction 90
9. Recreation 79
10. Manufacturing 63

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### Other Top Page Views of Interest

Calendar 2,247  
Things To Do 1,530

Visiting 1,369  
Shopping 725

Jobs 289  
Fall Foliage 214

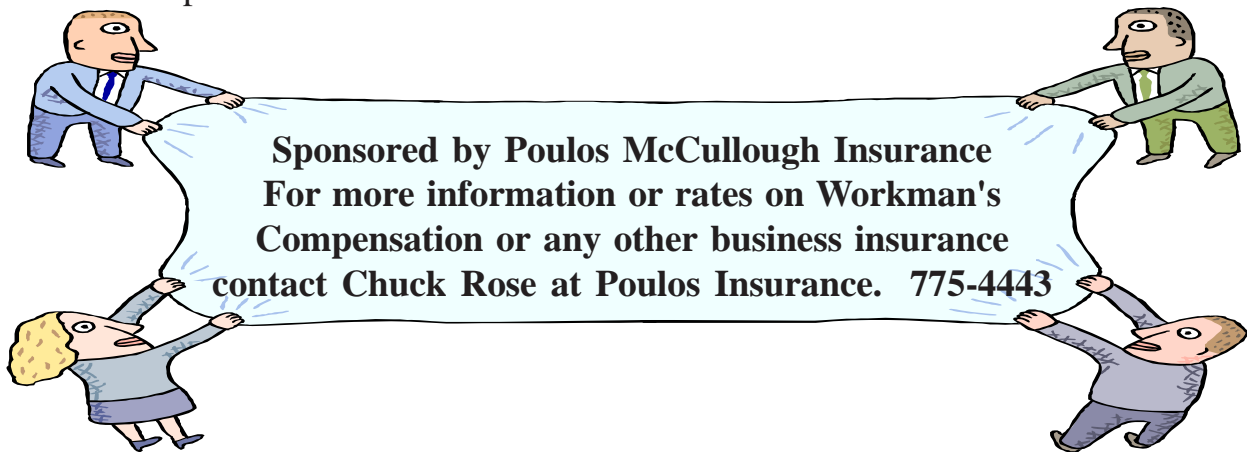
## *Workers' Comp. Corner*

### **Rule 50.0000 Vocational Rehabilitation Purpose**

Vocational rehabilitation (V.R.) shall be provided to a worker when, because of the work injury, s/he is unable to return to suitable employment for which s/he has prior training or experience relevant to currently available suitable employment. The services provided include retraining and job placement, as may be reasonably necessary to restore the employee to suitable employment.

The purpose of vocational rehabilitation is to provide those services including retraining, necessary to allow a return to suitable employment. The benefits provided under the statute are specifically tied to restoration of earning skills, and not tied to providing specific employment.

A worker is only entitled to vocational rehabilitation if the offered plan will result in suitable employment. The statute envisions a collaborative process between a worker and the employer/insurer to develop and implement an appropriate plan. The commissioner may order such rehabilitation, treatment or training necessary and appropriate to render the employee fit for a remunerative occupation.



### **2008-2009 Upcoming Chamber Events**

- November 11:** RRCC Mixer @ South Station Restaurant, 5-7pm
- November 19:** RRCC 110th Annual Meeting, 12noon, Holiday Inn
- December 9:** RRCC Holiday Mixer @ Heritage Family Credit Union, 5-7pm
- January 13:** RRCC Mixer @ Allen Pools & Spas, 5-7pm

### **Informed Chamber Members Read the RRCC Courier**



**Rob Kurchena,  
Edward Jones Investments**

## Vermont-Achieving High Marks in the Nation

For several years now, Vermont has consistently been ranked one of the top performers among VocRehab (VR) agencies nationwide. The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), U.S. Department of Education, collects and analyzes data to compare the effectiveness of public vocational rehabilitation programs across the nation. In 2005, RSA ranked the Vermont Division of Vocational Rehabilitation #1 in New England and #7 in the nation, when compared to agencies serving the general (but not the blind) population. And of those top-ranked agencies, Vermont serves by far the highest percentage of SSA disability beneficiaries, for whom barriers to employment are high. Vermont also excels in other areas, particularly in Ticket to Work participation rate. Having a high rate means greater opportunity for funding from the Social Security Administration (SSA), which reimburses VR for beneficiaries who are successfully rehabilitated and working at a substantial level. This income further strengthens VR's capacity to serve more Vermonters with disabilities. Vermont also gets high marks for our benefits counselors' work with SSA disability beneficiaries, helping them use work incentives to be more self-sufficient.

### Vermont's Rankings

1st - New VR applicants per million state population — we're doing a great job of reaching out to as many Vermonters as possible.

1st - VR employment outcomes per million state population — we're effective in getting Vermonters in for VR services and on to successful employment.

3rd - Average expenditure per employment outcome — we get results without spending more than we need to, leaving more resources to serve others.

1st - Percent of VR clients on SSA disability with employment outcomes — we serve the most disabled individuals with the most complex benefits issues, and we're helping more of them to work than other states.

1st - Ticket participation rate — we are involved in helping a lot of SSA beneficiaries return to work and are actively claiming reimbursement from SSA for these services. As a result, we bring more federal money into the State to serve Vermonters with disabilities.

1st - Percent of SSDI beneficiaries who work — thanks in part to the network of benefits counselors VocRehab Vermont has created, more Vermonters on SSDI are improving their livelihood and contributing to our economy.

1st - Percent of SSI eligibles with a PASS plan — benefits counseling has helped more low-income Vermonters take advantage of the opportunity to set aside money to work towards self-sufficiency through employment.

1st - Employment rate for individuals with developmental disabilities — VR's collaboration with state and community developmental services agencies to fund supported employment services is paying off.

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## Rutland Region Workforce Investment Board Nancy Burzon, Executive Director



### Applications For The 2009 Manufacturing Technology Program Now Being Accepted.

The RRWIB and Stafford Technical Center Adult Education are pleased to announce that the Vermont Training Fund has underwritten the tuition for the Manufacturing Technology Program for its fourth year. This unique program was launched in 2006 to develop a pool of trained employees for manufacturing companies in Rutland County. It specifically targets individuals who are interested in changing careers and entering an environment where technology is increasingly used to perform many of the routine tasks of a manufacturing process. New skill sets are required and those include not only the underlying technology but also the ability to work in a team, seek continuous improvement in the work performed and to use data in the problem solving analysis.

The Manufacturing Technology Program offers the foundation training to prepare participants for entry-level positions. Once hired, on-the-job training will continue to develop the skills needed for the specific types of manufacturing, depending on employer products and processes.

Successful candidates will include adults with work experience in other industries as well as high school students who will be 18 and graduating in June 2009.

Classes are offered in the evening at Stafford Technical Center beginning in January. **Eligible participants must be willing to commit to seven hours of instruction per week for twenty weeks.** For additional information regarding the details of the program and enrollment process, please contact William Lucci, Director of Adult and Continuing Education at Stafford Technical Center at (802) 770-1032. **This program is provided at no cost to participants and is made possible through the generous support of the Vermont Training Program through the State of Vermont Department of Economic Development.**

### October Chamber Mixer



A large crowd was on hand including Bob O'Brien, Senior Vice President of Lake Sunapee Bank (center) at the October Chamber mixer held at Lake Sunapee Bank in Downtown Rutland.

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## Membership Directors Update ~ Joan Hill



Hi Everyone,

The October mixer hosted by Lake Sunapee Bank was a great success. The food and door prizes were wonderful.

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.

November's Benefit of the Month is the Business Show held at the Holiday in March every year. The date for 2009 is March 10<sup>th</sup>. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase your business. The attendance is terrific and exhibitor space is limited. Letters will be mailed shortly to last year's exhibitors.

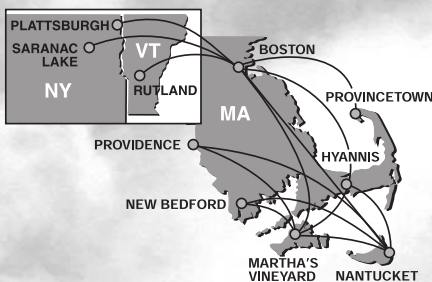
Welcome to our new members: Cold River Frameworks & Gallery, Reformed Bible Church, The Red Moon Saloon and Vermont Adult Learning.

Congratulations to Ray Ault of Ault Commercial Realty who has been named Vermont Realtor of the Year by the Vermont Association of Realtors. Ault is the first Rutland honoree in 36 years.

We look forward to seeing you at the Rutland Region Chamber of Commerce 110th Annual Meeting to be held at the Holiday Inn on November 19<sup>th</sup>, sponsored by General Electric and featuring keynote speaker, Gene DeFilippo, Director of Athletics at Boston College and sponsored by the Rutland Regional Medical Center.

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 South Station mixer on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

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## Merchants: Be Alert

by James P. Mongeon, State's Attorney

### Getting Ready For Winter

Winter is coming to your neighborhood very soon. While the calendar shows the official start of winter is in late December, we Vermonters know that it is going to be here sooner than the "official date". We also know that we cannot assign the actual date since Vermont weather does not give us that predictability.

Winter does bring with it some predictable events. This year, the cost of home heating brings fire safety into a sharper focus with a worthwhile goal: saving lives.

### WINTER FIRES

With the increase in the cost of home heating fuel, many people will be using alternative heating methods this winter. We have already seen one tragic fatal fire in Rutland County this Fall. Some simple precautions can help your family:

1. Have a professional clean & inspect your chimney. This is particularly important if you regularly heat with something other than fuel oil. It is critical if you are converting to wood, coal, or pellets.
2. If you are using a furnace, have it cleaned & inspected by a professional. Carbon monoxide is odorless, colorless and deadly. If you are using a woodstove, be sure that you have cleaned it before the start of the heating season & clean it periodically during the heating season.
3. Smoke Detectors. Two words that can save your life. Check with your fire department about the type of smoke detector you have to insure that it is the current type approved for housing units. If your detectors are not "hard wired", replace the batteries on Election Day, November 4.
4. Go to vote, then think "Smoke Detectors". If you do not have a carbon monoxide detector, make November 4 your day to get and install one.

## Welcome Cold River Frameworks 22 Center St., Downtown Rutland



Front row (L to R): Rob Claudio; Robin Svarfvar-Community Capitol; Alderman Joanne Slattery; Mayor Chris Louras; Kelly Gottier, owner; Ron Gottier, owner; Flo Gottier; Board of Alderman President Dave Allaire; Tom Macaulay, Executive Director, Rutland Redevelopment Authority; Back Row (L to R): Josh Kelly; Debbie Dubay; Alderman David Dress; Valerie Fothergill, President, Downtown Rutland Partnership; Carole Clifford, Downtown Rutland Partnership Board of Directors; Senator Hull Maynard; Carol Macleod, Downtown Rutland Partnership Board of Directors; Alderman William Notte; Mike Coppinger, Executive Director, Downtown Rutland Partnership; Ivan Rochon; Tom Donahue, EVP/CEO, Rutland Region Chamber of Commerce



## Computer Ease By: Larry Gold

### Computer Network? Sharing Things?

As long as both computers are connected to the same router, why not. Do you have more than one computer at your business? Are they setup to share things? Well, this is not all that big a deal, I have to tell you. Just got off the phone with a small business that just added a second computer, (I mean small business) and the question was, "Can I set up kind of a server?" The short answer is yes, of course. You don't have to have a big dedicated server to be able to share things. Things, meaning files and printers, are very easy to share between two or three, or even more computers. As long as you follow some basic rules, you can make this happen. One, don't name computers after people. People are people, computers are computers. Name the computers for their mission, or location, like "accounting" or "front desk", and then to really make it easy, put them in the same workgroup. You can even name the workgroup, "workgroup". In Windows XP, you do this by right clicking on the "My Computer" icon, and choosing properties. In the "Computer Name" tab, click on the "Change" button and here is where you name the computer and choose the workgroup. Every computer should have a different name and the same workgroup. Now, when you open up My Network Places on each machine, you will see the different computers listed and when you look in each computer, you will find what is being shared with the network. To share printers, go into the Printers and Faxes window on the computer that has the printer connected to it, right click on the printer and choose sharing. Move the dot to "share this printer", give it a simple name, and click OK. Go to the other computer, open My Network places, double click the computer with the shared printer, and double click the printer listed there. Click okay, and you are installing the printer on this computer. Voila. Next month, file sharing. Take a breath.

### November Chamber Meetings & Events

- 11 Information Can Set You Free Seminar. 9:30am, Holiday Inn Rutland
- 11 RRCC Mixer @ South Station Restaurant, 5-7pm
- 17 Public Policy Committee, 7:30am
- 19 RRCC 110th Annual Meeting, 12:15, Holiday Inn, Rutland

#### **We Need Your Brochures**

We need member brochures to distribute to our brochure locations. Please mail or drop off your brochures to RRCC, 256 N. Main St. Rutland, VT 05701



**The Rutland Region Chamber of Commerce fielded 962 phone inquiries during the month of September 2008**

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*Tuesday, November 11, 2008 ~ 5-7pm*

*Location: 170 South Main St., Rutland*

*~ Hors d'oeuvres ~*

*~ Door Prizes ~*

**Next Month: Holiday Mixer at Heritage Family Credit Union  
December 9, 2008 ~5-7pm**