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**GBIC**

*Good Jobs In A Clean Environment*

**Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation  
Summer 2023 Newsletter**



All,

And, just like that, it is already August in Vermont! This summer was undoubtedly more tumultuous than we'd hoped for - Between historic and catastrophic flooding taking its toll on our downtowns and rural areas alike and smog covering our mountains and valleys, it would be easy to dismiss the past few months as a time best forgotten.

However, for every struggle Vermont has faced this summer, Vermonters have demonstrated a tenacity and resoluteness of purpose that is by no means ordinary. First responders successfully conducted hundreds of evacuations during the floods, and thousands of volunteers assembled afterwards to clean up the damage. Vermont prides itself on being different - If this is different, then we say bring it on.

This is our Vermont way.

See you out there,  
Frank, Sam, Curt, and Alex

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## Flood Recovery Resources

### Vermont Business Emergency Gap Assistance Program

- The Vermont Department of Economic Development has announced additional details and guidelines for the Business Emergency Gap Assistance Program (BEGAP). The application portal is expected to open Thursday, August 3, but right now businesses and nonprofits can visit the [Business Emergency Gap Assistance Program page](#) to learn how the program works and what you will need to have in hand before you begin the online application process.
- The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAF) is conducting a [survey](#) with farms, agricultural businesses, and service and non-profit organizations to learn more about the impact of this disaster on their business. The data will be used to allocate resources and obtain more relief. That survey remains open until August 28.
- The state of Vermont and the U.S. EPA opened a new flood hazardous materials drop off site in Middlesex at the former Vermont State Police barracks on Route 2. Businesses and nonprofits can bring up to ten 5-gallon containers of waste to include cleaners, chemicals, paint and more. [See the full list of what they will accept as well as other temporary locations.](#)

### SBA Update and Reminders

You can meet with a U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) representative at [FEMA's newest Disaster Recovery Center](#) (DRC) in Plainfield at Twinfield Union School. This is the fifth DRC in Vermont. Others are in Barre, Londonderry, Rutland and Waterbury. While at a DRC you can learn how to apply for low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters, businesses, and private nonprofits.

You can also learn about SBA disaster loans at Vermont's three [SBA Business Recovery Centers](#), by going online or calling 1-800-659-2955.

If you are applying for an SBA loan for [physical property damage](#), the deadline is **September 12, 2023**. Applications for [economic injury](#) loans are due **April 15, 2024**.

ACCD is encouraging businesses and nonprofits to apply for SBA loans. If the SBA offers you a loan and you don't like, you can always turn it down. But you can't turn down a loan you didn't apply for, so please take the time to register and apply.

### Philanthropic Opportunities

There are several philanthropic organizations offering flood relief opportunities, including:

- [Vermont Community Foundation](#)
- [Vermont Main Street Flood Recovery Fund](#)

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## GBIC 69th Annual Meeting



GBIC hosted its 69th Annual Meeting on June 21st at the ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain. This year, we honored Senator Patrick Leahy, Marcelle Leahy, and Team Leahy with the 2023 C. Harry Behney Lifetime Economic Development Achievement Award and 2023 Bob Skiff Community Improvement Award for their countless contributions to Vermont. Additionally, the 2023 Ernest Pomerleau Scholarship was awarded to Ledum Tornwinini, who is pursuing her degree in Nursing from the University of Vermont. Lastly, GBIC awarded John Davis and Stewart Ledbetter with Outstanding Community Service Awards.

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## Business Visits



**REVISION**®



GBIC organized a daylong business visit agenda with Commissioner of Economic Development Joan Goldstein, Vermont Economic Progress Council Executive Director Abbie Sherman, and Essex Economic Development Coordinator Jean O'Sullivan. The team had the chance to visit a number of key employers in Essex and Essex Junction, including Revision Military, Catamount Color, The Champlain Valley Exposition, Vermont Systems, and Vasa.

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## Work with the Economic Development Administration



U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

### Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

GBIC is excited to share that the West Central Vermont Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy ([CEDS](#)) document has been shared with the Economic

Development Administration ([EDA](#)) for approval. The CEDS document is a collaboration between economic development and planning professionals from four regions in the state and is intended to serve as a unified economic plan for years to come.

Next, the team hopes to submit an application to become a designated Economic Development District ([EDD](#)), which would give the West Central region additional access to federal funding.

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## Additional Events



### Vermont Community Leadership Summit

Registration is now LIVE for the Vermont Council on Rural Development's (VCRD) 2023 Vermont Community Leadership Summit: Strengthening Skills, Capacity, and Opportunity for the Future! The event will take place on Tuesday, August 15 at Vermont State University Randolph.

Nothing gets done in Vermont communities without the people who put themselves on the line for their town and for the issues they care about. Join us in Randolph on August 15th to connect with over 500 community builders from across the state along with people from the non-profit, business, and government sectors, and more. The Summit is an opportunity to gain new skills, meet like-minded individuals, share success stories, and explore big ideas for the future of Vermont.

All people who care about their community and the future of our state are encouraged to attend.

Learn more at [vtrural.org/summit](https://vtrural.org/summit)

### Vermont Employee Ownership Center: An Inside Exit

The Vermont Employee Ownership Center is hosting two live webinars on the topic of

ownership succession planning for small to medium-sized businesses. Sergio Alvares, Statewide Advisor for Strategic Projects at the Vermont Small Business Development Center, will take the lead for the first webinar, and the second webinar will be led by Tammy Richards, Associate at Country Business, Inc. Matt Cropp, Executive Director of the Vermont Employee Ownership Center, will co-present on the topic of selling a business to the employees for both events.

**Date:** Tuesday, September 26

**Time:** 12 - 1:30pm

**Lead presenter:** Sergio Alvares, Statewide Advisor for Strategic Projects, VtSBDC

**Co-presenter:** Matt Cropp, Executive Director, VEOC

**Registration:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_6R2ZWxFcRfiRCBnLmzLWqw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6R2ZWxFcRfiRCBnLmzLWqw)

**Date:** Thursday, September 28

**Time:** 3:30 - 5pm

**Lead presenter:** Tammy Richards, Associate, Country Business, Inc.

**Co-presenter:** Matt Cropp, Executive Director, VEOC

**Registration:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_cUiZQC1JR9yLogkxacndiA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cUiZQC1JR9yLogkxacndiA)

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## About GBIC:

As the certified non-profit economic development corporation serving Chittenden County, GBIC is dedicated to implementing our vision of a thriving Lake Champlain region. This includes an economic environment providing meaningful employment consistent with an uncompromised natural environment, enabling present and future generations of Vermonters to live, learn, work, and play in the Champlain Valley.

GBIC strives to attract, retain, and expand environmentally sensitive high-paying jobs in the Champlain Valley, and to initiate and support advocacy, education, and collaborative programs in promoting our Vision.

Visit [gbicvt.org](http://gbicvt.org)

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## GBIC Staff:



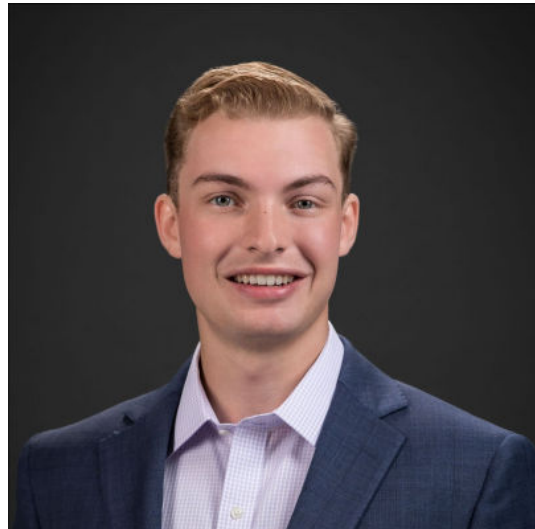
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Alex Demoly  
Economic Development Specialist

## Partners:

- [Agency of Commerce and Community Development](#)
- [Department of Economic Development](#)
- [Vermont COVID Information](#)
- [Vermont Labor Market Information](#)
- [Vermont Economic Development Authority](#)
- [Vermont Employment Growth Incentive](#)
- [Vermont Training Program](#)
- [Vermont Community Development Program](#)
- [Vermont Center for Emerging Technology](#)
- [Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center](#)
- [Procurement Technical Assistance Center](#)
- [Efficiency Vermont](#)

- [Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission](#)
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