



## The REDDC Review

Volume 8, May 2010

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Executive Director

### A Word from the Executive Director



The legislative session is getting to the most critical point of the year. With adjournment looming, there are multiple key pieces of legislation that are sitting in limbo currently. Just as worrisome are the bills that are moving through the process that will have a detrimental impact on the economic climate in Vermont. The economic recovery may have begun, but we are still in a very fragile state, and the legislature must weigh the impacts of their action and how it will relate to jobs and the health of the State.

The primary bill in limbo is the Unemployment Insurance reform bill. Vermont is currently borrowing money from the Federal government to make up for the deficit in our State fund. The effect of borrowing from the Fed's is:

1. We will see tax rates climb in some cases by 400%.
2. The interest charged by the Fed's must be paid from the General Fund, exacerbating the current revenue crisis at the State.

Some in Montpelier have suggested we could wait until next year to act. Not acting now will only cause the problem to grow significantly, which in turn will prolong the pain. The primary stumbling block to reform has been a lack of willingness on the part of some legislators to craft a balanced response. Senate Economic Development did pass a bill out of committee that provided a balanced approach, but that bill is now stuck in Senate Finance, and the House has indicated that they do not have an appetite to make changes that are needed to address this looming crisis.

The Raparian Buffer bill (River Corridor Management Bill H.763) has again begun to move by attachment to another piece of legislation. Legislators have insisted that the bill will not have a detrimental impact on development in Vermont, but only because they choose to ignore the history of permit regulation in Vermont. This is a tool for "zero growers", and needs to be stopped now. And finally, the "Challenges for Change" report and associated fiscal impacts are now being discussed. The process leading to the development of the report had little input if any from affected partners, and therefore was fatally flawed. But the legislature booked the savings in the budget

before knowing the impact of their action. There is a strong regional delivery system that is often cited as a strong example of best practices in delivering services when matched against other states from around the country. Despite this, the legislature is trying to design a complete overhaul of decades of structure development over the final few weeks of the session. Rarely are good decisions made without proper preparation.

In fairness to our legislature, the process is not done and we could possibly end the session in a better place. Now is when we need our representatives to be vigilant and focused on the wellbeing of our economy.

## Education & Workshops



May : VMEC Workshops

May 04, 2010 - The 5S System: Workplace Organization and Standardization

May 6-7, 2010 - Two Day Lean Bronze Certification Review Program

May 08, 2010 - Lean Bronze Certification Exam

May 11, 2010 - Set-up Reduction

May 13, 2010 - Principles of Lean Manufacturing 101

Visit [VMEC.org](http://VMEC.org) for more information

May : VtSBDC Workshops

May 03, 2010 - Starting Your Own Small Business - (Barre) - visit [www.Vtsbdc.org](http://www.Vtsbdc.org)

May 03, 2010 - Starting Your Own Small Business - (Springfield) - visit [www.Vtsbdc.org](http://www.Vtsbdc.org)

May 11, 2010 - Starting Your Own Small Business - (St. Albans) - visit [www.Vtsbdc.org](http://www.Vtsbdc.org)

May 11, 2010 - Listening To Your Business - (Randolph) - visit [www.Vtsbdc.org](http://www.Vtsbdc.org)

May 12, 2010 - Starting Your Own Small Business - (Hyde Park) - visit [www.Vtsbdc.org](http://www.Vtsbdc.org)

May 13, 2010 - 8th Annual Vermont Workplace Safety Conference & Governor's Awards - (Burlington) - visit [www.Vtsbdc.org](http://www.Vtsbdc.org)

May 14, 2010 - Starting Your Own Small Business - (Randolph) - visit [www.Vtsbdc.org](http://www.Vtsbdc.org)

May 18, 2010 - Starting Your Own Small Business - (Middlebury) - visit [www.Vtsbdc.org](http://www.Vtsbdc.org)

May 18, 2010 - Listening to Your Business - (St. Albans) - visit [www.Vtsbdc.org](http://www.Vtsbdc.org)

May 19, 2010 - Confined Space Entry (CSE) - (Williston) - visit [www.Vtsbdc.org](http://www.Vtsbdc.org)

May 20, 2010 - Starting Your Own Small Business - (Manchester) - visit [www.Vtsbdc.org](http://www.Vtsbdc.org)

May 20, 2010 - Starting Your Own Small Business - (Wilmington) - visit [www.Vtsbdc.org](http://www.Vtsbdc.org)

May 20, 2010 - Flourishing in Tough Times and Preparing for the Good Times - (St. Johnsbury) - visit [www.Vtsbdc.org](http://www.Vtsbdc.org)

May 20, 2010 - Business is Great, Except for the People - (St. Johnsbury) - visit [www.Vtsbdc.org](http://www.Vtsbdc.org)

May 25, 2010 - Starting Your Own Small Business - (Rutland) - visit [www.Vtsbdc.org](http://www.Vtsbdc.org)

May 25, 2010 - Starting Your Own Small Business - (St. Johnsbury) - visit [www.Vtsbdc.org](http://www.Vtsbdc.org)

May 26, 2010 - Starting Your Own Small Business - (North Hero) - visit [www.Vtsbdc.org](http://www.Vtsbdc.org)

"Leading Through Innovation" training conference, is scheduled for Wednesday through Friday, May 19 - 21, 2010 at the Sheraton Burlington Hotel and Conference Center.

Leading Through Innovation is an intensive 3-day training event designed to provide company and organization leaders the tools and confidence they need to lead profitable growth through innovation. It is most effective when attended by the CEO and two to four members of their staff. Leading Through Innovation is equally important for manufacturing and technology companies, service industries and non-profit organizations, as well as entrepreneurs, researchers and economic development professionals.

Attendees will learn a proven, systematic approach to CREATE, COMMUNICATE and

COMMERCIALIZE meaningfully unique ideas for more profitable products and services for your business or organization. This is about achieving an order of magnitude improvement. Delivered by Doug Hall, Founder and CEO of Eureka! Ranch, the "Leading Through Innovation" Engineering Leadership Institute was developed through a partnership of the University of Maine, Eureka! Ranch, and VMEC's federal partner, NIST MEP.

The cost for all three days is just \$395/person (a \$4995 value). And through a working partnership with the Vermont Training Program of the Vermont Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development, a \$200 discount is available to employees of Vermont Manufacturing, Healthcare, Telecom, Information Technology and Environmental companies, reducing the course registration fee to only \$195 per person! This registration fee includes all course materials, breakfasts and lunches.

For a full brochure and/or to register, visit <http://innovation.vmec.org>. Space is limited to 150 participants, and the special lodging rate for this event at the Sheraton Conference Center is guaranteed only through April 23rd. So, please register early!

## Commercial Space Available For Lease

Colvin Building Poultney

118 Main Street  
Poultney, VT 05764



Contact: Chuck Colvin  
(802) 287-5294

County: Rutland  
Market: Poultney, Fair Haven, Castleton,  
Western Rutland County

Description: For Rent  
Four Office Spaces with a view of lovely  
downtown Poultney.  
\$250-\$300 per unit per month including heat  
and lights.

The space is located on the second floor of  
the Colvin Building in Historic Downtown  
Poultney.

## Spot Light on Castleton State College Spartan Arena



In July of 2009, Castleton State College purchased the former Rutland Regional Fieldhouse facility located behind the Diamond Run Mall in Rutland Town. Constructed in 2004, the fieldhouse had been home to Castleton's men's and women's hockey programs, thus its purchase by the school ensured that this valuable community resource would remain vibrant for the college and the greater Rutland Region. It was renamed after the school's mascot and is now known as Spartan Arena.

Since acquiring the facility, numerous improvements have been made including new staircases and an elevator, which provide full access to the building's mezzanine area on the second level. Other projects are also planned such as a complete replacement of the arena lighting and a second elevated observation deck at the far end of the rink.

Castleton's management of the facility is enhanced by numerous valuable learning opportunities for Castleton students in popular majors such as Business Administration, Sports Management, Athletic Training and Physical Education. Supervised by college personnel, students will gain hands-on experience in market research, advertising and marketing, accounting and financial management, retail operations, scheduling and general events management.

In addition to the expanded college use of the facility, community access and use of the arena is welcome and encouraged on a daily, weekly and year-round basis. In addition to Castleton's own hockey teams, the arena is also the home rink for Rutland High School and Mount Saint Joseph Academy's boys' and girls' hockey teams, RAHA Jr. Spartan youth hockey programs, an adult women's hockey team known as Cutting Edge, Green Mountain Speedskating Club, Rutland Figure Skating Club, Black Ice junior hockey and numerous adult hockey programs. The arena is also open for public skating, teen nights and stick & puck sessions. Skate sharpening services are available and new this year will be a pro shop offering a full line of hockey equipment and gear. Concessions are also available and provided by local delicatessen, Thelma & Louise.

Recently, the arena was a co-host of the Snoe Down Festival, which included a two night concert at the facility featuring such well known musical acts as moe., Sharon Jones & the Dap Kings and Railroad Earth. Over 5,000 concert goers filled the arena over the two night period. In April, the ice is removed and artificial turf is installed. The City of Rutland's Recreation & Parks Department utilizes the arena during this time to conduct its indoor soccer, field hockey and lacrosse programs. During May and June, the arena is used for home shows, fundraisers and graduations, just to mention a few of the proposed events while the arena will also offer public in-line skating. Ice will be reinstalled in July with numerous hockey camps and leagues being offered to all ages along with regular public skating hours commencing once again, as well. For further information regarding Spartan Arena, call (802) 775-3100 or go online at [castleton.edu/spartanarena](http://castleton.edu/spartanarena).

### **Vermont Small Business Development Center**

Housed at REDC, the Vermont Small Business Development Center provides free technical assistance to starting and growing small businesses. Operated through the Vermont State College System, VtSBDC links businesses with higher education, state and federal programs, as well as other businesses. The VtSBDC offers in-depth counseling assistance at no cost to ensure more successful startups of new enterprises and to strengthen existing firms. With access to a comprehensive resource and information library, the VtSBDC can provide business planning assistance, marketing help, referrals and much more. In addition, VtSBDC periodically sponsors low-cost business training seminars on a variety of topics. For more information, contact our local Vermont Small Business Development specialist at REDC 802-773-9147.

### **Contact Information**

Questions or comments? E-mail us at [tcarrington@rutlandeconomy.com](mailto:tcarrington@rutlandeconomy.com).

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**Serving Rutland County Since 1937**

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