

SOUTH BURLINGTON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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Photos by Andy Brumbaugh

South Burlington Business Association Hosts City Update at City Hall

South Burlington, VT — The South Burlington Business Association (SBBA) hosted a Member Meeting on February 4, 2026, at South Burlington City Hall, bringing together local business leaders for networking and an update on key City priorities impacting the business community.

Members heard from City Manager Jessie Baker, who provided an overview of important budget items and shared highlights of the City’s new Economic Development Strategic Plan. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session, allowing SBBA members to engage directly with the City Manager and her leadership team on current initiatives and future priorities.

“We appreciate the City’s openness and willingness to engage with the business community,” said Roland Groeneveld, Chair of the South Burlington Business Association. “We are especially encouraged by the City Council’s commitment to adopt the Economic Development Strategic Plan, which reinforces the importance of a strong local economy and continued collaboration.”

The SBBA thanked City leadership for their time and transparency and its members for participating in a productive discussion focused on South Burlington’s economic future.



Government Affairs Update

Election Results

In South Burlington's only contested City Council race on March 3, Beth Zigmund defeated Amy Allen by just 31 votes. Voters also approved the fire station bond, school budget, and city budget. Turnout was just 23%.



Montpelier Update

The Vermont Legislature is entering the home stretch. The official crossover deadline has passed, and lawmakers must decide which bills survive and which quietly fade away. The next month will unfold against a political backdrop. Every local and statewide office will be on the ballot in November, and candidates have until May 28 to declare eligibility for the August primary.

Vermont lawmakers advanced a tax bill that taps nearly \$75 million in one-time surplus funds to hold next year's average property tax increase to around 7% — well below the 12% spike forecast in December, but a temporary fix that will need to be revisited. It doesn't change the underlying math: education costs are growing about twice as fast as the revenues that support them, roughly 80% of spending is locked into salaries and benefits, and Vermont's per-pupil costs remain among the highest in the nation. At the same time, enrollment continues to fall, and an aging population leaves a smaller tax base.

One of the most contentious pieces of Vermont's recent land-use overhaul may be delayed rather than repealed. Legislation advancing through the Senate would postpone parts of Act 181 — the sweeping 2024 restructuring of Vermont's development review system. The law has drawn growing opposition in rural communities, particularly towns without zoning or municipal water and sewer systems. Those towns don't qualify for many of the housing exemptions built into the law and instead face new regulatory triggers. The flashpoint: a provision that would require Act 250 review whenever a private road extends beyond 800 feet.

About a dozen Vermont towns passed a 1% Local Option Tax (LOT) on Town Meeting Day, joining roughly 30 municipalities where the combined sales and use tax rate is 7% rather than 6%. The new additions won't collect the extra 1% until at least July 1. Meanwhile, the Legislature is weighing whether to allow towns to raise their LOT by another percentage point, with proceeds earmarked for

road maintenance. Towns have been vocal about infrastructure funding shortfalls. A local option tax on gasoline sales is currently prohibited under Vermont law, but several proposals to change that are in circulation.

A proposal that would charge battery-electric vehicle drivers based on miles traveled rather than fuel purchased has preliminary approval in Montpelier. The Mileage-Based User Fee (MBUF) sets a rate of \$0.014 per mile for EVs — calibrated to approximate the fuel tax gasoline vehicles pay, and estimated to cost a typical driver \$150–\$200 annually. If signed into law, the fee will take effect on January 1, 2027. The bill also proposes a one-percentage-point increase in the EV rental tax, bringing it to 10%. A broader expansion of mileage-based fees to gasoline vehicles remains possible but is not expected for several years.

Get connected. If you would like SBBA's Government Affairs e-newsletter update, go to MeadowHillMedia.com/sbba to sign up



SAVE THE DATE!

SBBA
South Burlington Business Association

SBBA Annual Meeting
— with **UVM** President
Marlene Tromp

Wednesday, May 20th at 5PM
— at **OnLogic** —

More information to come...

 **Wednesday, May 20th at 5PM at OnLogic**

The graphic features a woman with blonde hair and red glasses, wearing a dark green blazer, standing with her arms crossed. The background is a light green bokeh pattern. The text is arranged in a clean, professional layout with various font weights and colors (blue, green, brown) to highlight key information.

A NOTE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN:



Dear Members and Friends,

As we move further into the year, I continue to be encouraged by the strength, collaboration, and forward momentum within South Burlington's business community.

In February, the South Burlington Business Association was pleased to host a City Update with members of the City's leadership team. We are grateful to the City of South Burlington for taking the time to share updates and engage with our business community, and we appreciate their continued partnership with SBBA. The City's work to advance a strategic vision for economic development reflects a shared commitment to ensuring South Burlington remains a vibrant place to live, work, and do business.

We were particularly encouraged by the recent approval of funding for a new Economic Development position within the City. This is an important step forward, and we believe it will help strengthen coordination between the city and the business community as we work together to support thoughtful growth and opportunity in South Burlington. SBBA looks forward to partnering with the city and the future Economic Development Director as this work moves ahead.

Looking ahead, I am pleased to share that **Dr. Marlene Tromp, President of the University of Vermont, will join us as the keynote speaker at our SBBA Annual Meeting.** Dr. Tromp brings a dynamic perspective on higher education, workforce development, and community partnership, and we are excited to welcome her to speak with our members.

Please **save the date for Wednesday, May 20 at 5:00 p.m. at OnLogic.** Our Annual Meeting is always a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow business leaders, hear from an engaging speaker, and celebrate the strength of our local business community. I hope you will plan to join us.

Thank you for your continued support of SBBA and for the many ways you contribute to making South Burlington a thriving and welcoming community. Together, we can continue to build a strong local economy, foster meaningful partnerships, and ensure that South Burlington remains a place where businesses and people succeed.

Warm regards,

Roland Groeneveld
Chairman, South Burlington Business Association

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT:



Heritage Aviation is a 100% employee-owned, fixed-based operator (FBO) and a FAA-certified 145 aircraft repair station (MRO) based at Patrick Leahy Burlington International Airport. The company provides a range of aviation services, including fueling, ground handling, deicing, aircraft storage, aircraft maintenance, avionics support, and ground service equipment repair, with a strong commitment to customer satisfaction, safety, and community. Our customers include commercial airlines, cargo carriers, military and government aircraft and the General Aviation community. We serve as the Welcome Center for the aviation community, which includes transportation of employees, customers, cargo/mail, Medical and emergency transport, mapping and surveying, aerial photography, security and law enforcement, News gathering, pipeline and utility monitoring, Weather monitoring and reporting, airborne research and development, Humanitarian missions, agricultural and tourism. We pride ourselves on facilitating meaningful relationships and experiences through exceptional aviation services. Service, safety, and community are

values we instill in our culture.

In addition to being employee owned since 2015, we have been recognized as a “Best Place to Work in Vermont” for the past 10 years and practice open book management to promote employee engagement, provide financial education and improve financial results. “We own our future.”

Heritage also prides itself on transparency and social responsibility, with the company becoming a Vermont Benefit Corporation and a Certified B corporation, a requirement of the Vermont statute, in 2018. It Starts with our LEED Gold Certified FBO and aircraft hangar building, rooftop solar, green roof with rooftop rainwater collection system and a wind turbine as part of our sustainability effort. We power 30% of our ground servicing equipment with electric battery powered equipment. We are also proud to lead by example in sustainability. As New England’s first provider of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), we set a precedent for environmental responsibility and continue to pursue initiatives that support a more sustainable future for aviation.

Our employee-owners receive paid time to volunteer with organizations that change lives in meaningful ways. We build homes alongside Habitat for Humanity, inspire future innovators through FIRSTinVT Robotics, deliver firewood to families in need with Wood4Good, and support children and families through Camp Ta-Kum-Ta. We also come together at events such as Pulling for a Cause, the Awesome Open, and the 19th Col. Alan J. LeClair Golf Tournament, where teamwork and camaraderie fuel support for important causes.

Heritage Aviation is equally dedicated to supporting the next generation of aviation professionals. We partner with Burlington Technical Center and Vermont State University to provide students with opportunities to explore and grow in aviation careers. Through these partnerships, as well as our collaboration with Women in Aviation International, the Vermont National Guard, and the Military Skills Bridge Program, we help ensure that the future of aviation is diverse, inclusive, and full of opportunity.

At Heritage, we’re more than an FBO and MRO. We’re a team of employee-owners passionate about delivering exceptional experiences, advancing green aviation, and building lasting relationships with our community and every customer who passes through our doors. At Heritage Aviation our motto is “Think Like an Owner.”

Becoming a member of the SBBA reflects our commitment to one of our core values- community involvement. It also allows us to stay informed on city activity, connect with other local businesses, and be a productive partner in shaping the future of South Burlington.” **Matthew Collins, CEO, Heritage Aviation**




HERITAGE
AVIATION
AN EMPLOYEE OWNED COMPANY

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBER:

Passumpsic Bank

Passumpsic Bank is a community bank, 11 branches strong, proudly serving the Northeast Kingdom, Central VT, NH North Country and a Loan Production Office in Williston, VT. Wherever you happen to be in life, we want to be there to meet your banking needs.



**Passumpsic
Bank**

*Since joining the SBBA, I have been able to learn so much more about what is happening in South Burlington. Such knowledge about this vibrant community is extremely helpful to my business and the individuals who live here. I have also been able to connect with other dynamic business leaders to talk about various matters of importance to the community. I am proud to be a part of an organization that is actively involved with improving the community. **Chris Loso, Vice President, Loso's Professional Janitorial Services***

SBBA/NOWAK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The SBBA has sponsored an Annual Scholarship, the SBBA/Nowak Scholarship for the last five years. This scholarship was named for Patricia Nowak, a former South Burlington City Councilor and business leader, and is given to a graduating senior who is interested in pursuing business in college.

2018 – Lana Al-Namee

2019- Amelia Blum

2020 – Nicolas Desranleau

2021 – Max Duffy

2022 – Shane Burke

2023 – Han Tran

2024- Tyler Bergmans

2025-Kai Davidson

The SBBA is seeking donations in order to continue funding this important scholarship

To contribute to this scholarship, **make checks payable to: South Burlington School Foundation/SBBA** and mail to:

South Burlington High School
550 Dorset Street
South Burlington, VT 05403

The SB Foundation, a 501(c)3, will receive your donation and send you a note to use for tax preparation.



INTERESTED IN SPONSORSHIP?

Sponsorship allows the SBBA to continue to have meetings and events that benefit our businesses. Please consider sponsoring a meeting this year!

Each of our member meetings provides opportunities to sponsor: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Please contact Julie Beatty at SBBABIZ@gmail.com for more information.

<u>Sponsorship Opportunities</u>	Gold \$500	Silver \$300	Bronze \$100
Receive recognition on social media and sponsorship announcements	✓	✓	✓
Host an exhibit table at the event	✓	✓	
Speak exclusively to all members about your business	✓		

The University of Vermont Medical Center is proud to be a member of the South Burlington Business Association. We have more than 1,000 employees working at sites in South Burlington, and more than 1,000 who call South Burlington home. We appreciate the ongoing efforts of SBBA to help ensure that the City of South Burlington is an attractive place to work and live, and we look forward to continuing to partner with SBBA in these efforts.

Stephen Leffler, MD, President/CEO, University of Vermont Medical Center

 Stay Connected & Updated!

Has your business recently updated its logo?

Want to make sure more team members receive our emails?

- Send us your latest logo**
- Let us know who else should be added to the SBBA distribution list**

Help us keep your business info current and your team in the loop!



*BETA Technologies is proud to be a member of the South Burlington Business Association. As a company of Vermonters, it's amazing to see the great work this organization is doing to build a connected and well-resourced business network. SBBA's focus on trust, transparency and social responsibility are powering a strong community that we can all be proud of." **Chris Caputo, CXO, BETA Technologies***

HOW TO JOIN SBBA

To learn more about membership and how to join, please contact Julie Beatty at sbbabiz@gmail.com

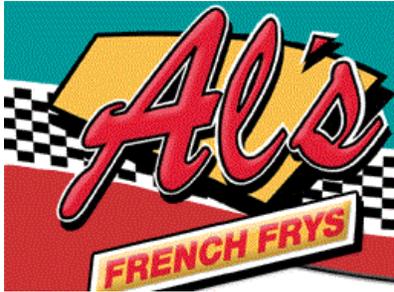
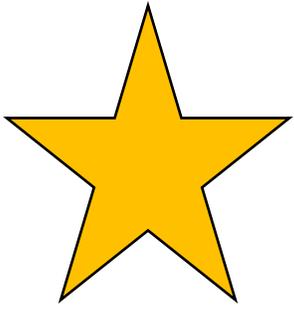
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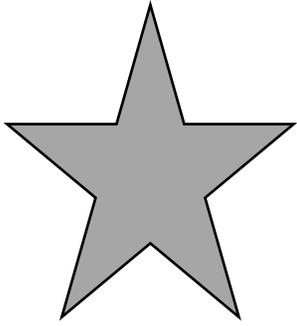
OUR MISSION

The South Burlington Business Association (SBBA) is a group of business leaders dedicated to making South Burlington a better place to work and live. We present a united voice to the public and municipal government for our members. Through the SBBA's periodic public membership meetings and other outreach efforts, we actively interface with the City and School administration and other local and regional organizations. SBBA is organized with volunteer leadership and a focused, modest budget.



MEET OUR FOUNDER MEMBERS:





THANKS TO OUR PLATINUM MEMBERS:



LARKIN REALTY



South Burlington's Community Newspaper • since 1877
Other Paper

university
mall


Vermont Gas


NEAGLEY & CHASE
CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

PLAY IT AGAIN
SPORTS®


ReArch
CONSTRUCTION

THE
University of Vermont
MEDICAL CENTER


HOWARD
CENTER
Help is here.


MSK Consulting, LLC


BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY
HomeServices
Vermont Realty
Group

Heritage
AUTOMOTIVE GROUP, INC.


There's an engineer behind everything we sell.
INSTRUMART


VERMONT FEDERAL
CREDIT UNION


HERITAGE
AVIATION
AN EMPLOYEE OWNED COMPANY


NEVILLE
INVESTMENTS