

SOUTH BURLINGTON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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Photos by Andy Brumbaugh

South Burlington Business Association Hosts Meeting with City and School Officials

South Burlington, VT — February 12, 2025 – The South Burlington Business Association (SBBA) held a member meeting today featuring City Manager Jessie Baker and her staff, along with Superintendent of Schools Violet Nichols. Attendees received presentations on the proposed FY26 budgets for both the city and the school district.

Members had the opportunity to engage directly with city and school leadership, ask questions, and gain insight into how the upcoming budgets will impact the local business community and broader South Burlington area.

“We appreciate the opportunity to hear directly from city and school officials about the financial plans for the coming year,” said Roland Groeneveld, SBBA Chairman. “These discussions help our members stay informed and engaged in the future of our community.”

SBBA remains committed to fostering collaboration between local businesses, city leadership, and the school district to support a thriving South Burlington.

Interested in sponsoring this important event? Contact us at SBBAbiz@gmail.com



SAVE THE DATE:

SBBA Annual Member Meeting

Wednesday May 21, 2025, at 5:00pm

**Speaker: Dr. Stephen Leffler, President and Chief Operating Officer,
UVM Medical Center**

Delta Hotel, 1117 Williston Road, South Burlington

Government Affairs Update

Education

Lawmakers have given preliminary approval to a property tax yield bill that uses \$77 million in one-time funds in order to cap property tax increases at 1%. Without this infusion, property taxes would likely rise by 6% next year.

To address long-term education costs, the Governor and legislators are considering school district consolidation. Separately, the House Commerce Committee is advancing legislation to restructure Vermont's Career and Technical Education (CTE) system into a single statewide district with 15 service regions.

Housing

Vermont municipalities face a \$240 million shortfall for planned water and sewer infrastructure—key components necessary for enabling new housing development. In response, lawmakers are moving forward with the Community Housing Infrastructure Program (CHIP). Similar to the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) tool used in South Burlington, CHIP would allow municipalities to self-finance infrastructure projects based on projected property tax revenue increases—reducing the need for new state or local appropriations and giving towns greater flexibility to expand infrastructure and support housing growth.

Another proposal seeks to streamline municipal zoning appeal processes to reduce delays in housing development approvals. A study would also examine the potential transfer of Act 250 appeals from the Environmental Division to the Land Use Review Board to expedite decisions. The legislation would additionally prioritize brownfield cleanup efforts for housing redevelopment and propose improvements to the remediation process.

Energy & Transportation

Vermont is among several states to have adopted a Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) mandate, requiring 35% of new vehicle sales to be electric by 2026, increasing to 100% by 2035. As of now, only 12% of new vehicles sold in Vermont are electric, according to the Vermont Vehicle Index.

A proposal to repeal Act 18—commonly known as the Clean Heat Standard (CHS)—is gaining traction. The repeal is attached to broader legislation that would allow Efficiency Vermont to spend more on initiatives that increase electricity consumption, such as electric heat pumps.

Despite spending roughly \$100 million annually on highway paving, Vermont is projected to face a \$30 million transportation funding gap next year. If left unaddressed, the percentage of roads rated in poor or very poor condition could rise from 26% in 2025 to 60% by 2029.

To address long-term funding shortfalls, lawmakers in Montpelier are moving forward with a mileage-based user fee (MBUF) on electric vehicles, expected to generate \$5 million annually starting in 2026. The Agency of Transportation is required to develop the MBUF framework by July 2026.

Federal transportation grants may be in jeopardy as the Trump administration reconsiders funding tied to diversity, climate, and active transportation infrastructure. This shift could affect 15 municipal projects, including a pedestrian bridge over I-89 in South Burlington. The federally funded National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program—designed to support EV charger installations—has been frozen. Only one station, in Bradford, was completed before the pause.

South Burlington Business Association Donates \$8,750 to South Burlington Food Shelf



Julie Beatty, Peter Carmolli

*EDK Accounting, LLC
Flood Financial Services
Geri Reilly Real Estate
Heather Tremblay
Loso's Professional Janitorial Services
Tim McKenzie
Meadow Hill Consulting
MSK Consulting, LLC
Neville Investments
Northfield Savings Bank*

*Paw Print & Mail
Play It Again Sports
Pomerleau Real Estate
Rich Cassidy Law
South Burlington Business Association
Spear Meadows, Inc.
Stantec
Sugarsnap
VHB, Inc.
VT Fuels Association*



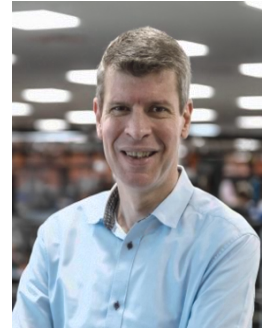
South Burlington, VT – January 2, 2025– The South Burlington Business Association (SBBA) is proud to announce that its member businesses have collectively donated \$8,750 to the South Burlington Food Shelf through the annual Food Shelf Initiative. This contribution underscores the commitment of SBBA members to supporting the local community and addressing food insecurity.

The South Burlington Food Shelf plays a crucial role in ensuring that no one in the community goes hungry. The funds raised by SBBA members will help the Food Shelf purchase essential food items, expand its efforts, and continue serving individuals and families facing food insecurity in the South Burlington area.

The SBBA extends its heartfelt thanks to all participating businesses and community members who made this year's Food Shelf Initiative a success.

*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***

A NOTE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN:



Dear SBBA Members,

On behalf of the South Burlington Business Association, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you for your generous donations to the food shelf. Your contributions make a real difference in our community, and we appreciate your commitment to supporting those in need.

I also want to invite you to our Annual Meeting on May 21st at 5:00 PM at Delta Hotels. This year, we are honored to welcome Steve Leffler, President and COO of UVM Medical Center, as our keynote speaker. Healthcare is a crucial issue for businesses today, and this is a great opportunity to learn more about its impact and future trends.

If you haven't sponsored one of our meetings before, please consider doing so for this important event. Sponsorship is a great way to showcase your business while supporting SBBA's efforts to provide valuable programming for our members.

Additionally, the City of South Burlington has engaged CivicSol consultants to develop a strategic economic plan. We have already held one session where members shared their priorities and concerns, and we encourage you to stay engaged in this process to help shape the city's future.

Each year, SBBA awards a scholarship to a South Burlington High School student who plans to pursue a business degree in college. We invite you to make a tax-deductible contribution to this fund. More information on how to give is provided below.

Finally, we continue to work on your behalf on key issues such as affordable housing and economic development. Your input is invaluable, and we encourage you to stay involved and share your thoughts with us.

Thank you for being an active part of SBBA. We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting and continuing our work together for a stronger business community.

Best regards,
Roland Groeneveld
Chairman, South Burlington Business Association

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT:



Reilly Simoneau, Geri Reilly, Mike Simoneau, Mike Simoneau Jr.

Spotlight on Geri Reilly Real Estate:

Who is Geri Reilly?

For over four decades, Geri Reilly's name has been synonymous with Vermont real estate. Whether you've seen her advertisements or noticed one of her recognizable For Sale signs throughout Northwest Vermont, chances are you've heard of Geri. Many locals know someone who has bought or sold a home with Geri's, or her team's, expert guidance – a testament to her lasting impact on the community & real estate marketplace.

Professional History

Geri began her real estate career shortly after graduating from the University of Vermont in 1979. She quickly became a top producer, earning recognition as a leading residential agent by 1983. Her accolades didn't stop there, as she continued to be a top producing agent during her time at Coburn and Feeley Real Estate, Inc. and with Coldwell Banker Hickok & Boardman Realty.

It was during these years that Geri met Mike Simoneau, another local Realtor with roots in Vermont. They shared things in common such as growing up in the Green Mountain State, graduating from UVM (Mike in '73), and having a passion for real estate. While Geri focused on residential sales, Mike became a prominent commercial broker. They married in '89 and have two children, Reilly Simoneau and Mike Simoneau Jr.

A Company of Their Own

In August of 2010, Geri and Mike decided to take on their next adventure, launching their own firm – Geri Reilly Real Estate. Over time, the business grew even stronger with the addition of local agents plus their son and daughter, making it a true multigenerational family venture. Together, they continued to offer the same exceptional, client-focused service that has defined Geri's career. Based on Dorset Street in South Burlington, Geri Reilly Real Estate remains a proud, family-run business committed to the community they serve.



Today, they can proudly say Geri Reilly Real Estate has been servicing Northwest Vermont for nearly 15 years! Geri and her team of agents specialize in listing properties, buyer representation, and real estate consulting. Known for her personalized approach and meticulous attention to detail, Geri ensures each client receives unparalleled support. This commitment to excellence has allowed the team to consistently sell over 150 homes annually.

Beyond the Business

More than just a business, Geri Reilly Real Estate is a dedicated community partner, supporting important local organizations such as the South Burlington Food Shelf, Lund Home, and Howard Center. Their passion for helping families extends beyond real estate, reflecting a true investment in the wellbeing of their neighbors.



Geri Reilly Team

Geri Reilly Real Estate remains dedicated to helping Vermont families achieve their real estate dreams — combining decades of expertise with a warm, personalized touch. Whether buying, selling, or seeking guidance, Geri and her team are ready to make your next move smooth and successful.

*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***

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

Casey, Inc.

Casey, Inc., is a woman-owned public affairs, communications and media services company that provides business strategy, communications, crisis management, media, and public opinion research services to corporate and non-profit clients. Companies call on Casey, Inc. for outside perspective, honesty, and steady and passionate leadership to guide them through a new initiative, special project, or a very bad situation.

PayMore

At PayMore® Stores, we recognize the value of your electronics. That's why we offer top trade-in payouts and provide instant cash or trade for your devices. Whether they're old, used, or broken, we're ready to buy or ReCycle them for you.



Don't let your unwanted gadgets gather dust—visit our South Burlington location at The Blue Mall today and turn them into cash and keep electronics out of the waste stream!

We ensure your devices are thoroughly data-wiped to protect your privacy. No need to figure out how to erase your electronics—we handle it securely for you using **BITRASER® DATA ERASER SOFTWARE**

Steelberry, Inc.

Manufacturer of custom souvenirs, collectibles and keepsakes.



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

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/COO, University of Vermont Medical Center

HOW TO JOIN SBBA

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

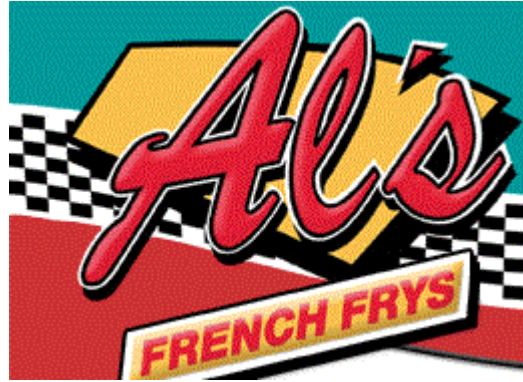
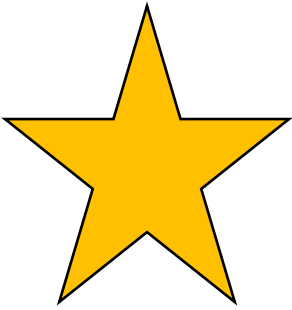
Or visit our website: www.sbbabiz.com

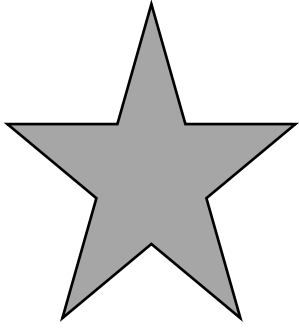
OUR MISSION

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



PLAY IT AGAIN
SPORTS®

ReArch
COMPANY

THE
University of Vermont
MEDICAL CENTER




BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY
HomeServices
Vermont Realty
Group


NEVILLE
INVESTMENTS




VERMONT FEDERAL
CREDIT UNION

Heritage
AUTOMOTIVE GROUP, INC.