



# SMALL TOWNS big HEART

Volume 33  
November 2016

Keeping business connected in the White River Valley Region

## MEMBERSHIP SURVEYS COMPLETE

THANK YOU TO ALL that responded to our Membership Survey during the past few weeks.

We appreciate your time on this important matter.

ALL the information we received has been compiled for review by the Board of Directors and will be used to guide us in determining our future direction.

This information will be shared with you as we move forward.

### A BIG "THANK YOU"

to Linda Runnion of Brookfield for her help these past few weeks. Linda has spent time talking with as many of our members as she could in face to face meetings, gathering feedback from our survey.

**We appreciate all that you have done Linda!!**

White River Valley  
Chamber of Commerce  
31 VT Route 66, Suite #1  
Randolph, Vermont 05060  
**802-728-9027**

#### Towns We Serve:

Bethel, Braintree, Brookfield,  
Chelsea, Hancock,  
Randolph, Royalton,  
Rochester, Sharon,  
Stockbridge, & Tunbridge

#### Board of Directors

Sherry Needle, President  
Ashley Lincoln, Vice President  
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Mary Jeanne Taylor  
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Rob Niebling

### Holiday Shopping Card Program starting soon.

The Holiday Shopping Card program, promoting local member shopping, will begin on Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup> and run through December 26<sup>th</sup>. If you did not see our mailing, you still have time to act if you wish to participate in the program...the absolute last day we can accept entry is **Fri, Nov 11<sup>th</sup>**.

### In this issue

2017 VACE Insurance Plan Info	P2
Rail Transportation forum	P3
Chandler Center for the Arts	P4
Safe and Seen Halloween	P5
Santa is coming to town	P5
Holiday Shopping Card form	P6

# ANNOUNCING VACEPlus RATES FOR 2017

Dear VACCE Member:

Please find the 2017 VACEPlus insurance program monthly rates below. We are happy to share that for the fifth year in a row, VACE was able to negotiate a rate hold on all of their product offerings.

Please note that due to low participation levels, accident insurance is no longer being offered.

2017 VACEPLUS	Monthly Premium		
	Single	2 People	3+ People
Delta Dental Plan One: PPO Plus Premier	\$ 49	\$89	\$149
Delta Dental Plan Two: PPO	\$39	\$39	\$109
VSP Vision	\$12	\$19	\$29

A second, lower priced dental option will continued to be offered that utilizes the more discounted PPO network. For a list of participating PPO network dentist, visit [www.nedelta.com/LocalDentistSearch.aspx](http://www.nedelta.com/LocalDentistSearch.aspx).

Any employee can purchase the vision coverage, regardless of whether or not they are participating in a dental plan.

Employers should communicate all policy additions, terminations, and coverage changes to VACE no later than **11/15/16**. As in previous years, members will continue in their existing dental or vision plan coverage, unless VACE is notified otherwise. Any employee wishing to make a change to their coverage must inform VACE in writing and complete the appropriate forms for each product. More information regarding the plans, as well as group enrollment forms and employee changes forms can be found at [www.vaceinsurance.com](http://www.vaceinsurance.com).

Please do not hesitate to contact the VACE program Administrator directly with any questions. Thank you for your continued support of the VACEPlus program!

**(802)229-2231**

**[vacehealth@vtchamber.com](mailto:vacehealth@vtchamber.com)**

## Transportation Board holds White River Forum on Rail

The Vermont Transportation Board at 6 p.m. on November 16 will hold a public forum in White River Junction on transportation policy associated with trains, both passenger and freight. The Board wants to discuss railroad related issues with the public – including passenger expansion to Montreal, rail-side economic development and living with railroads as neighbors – to determine how future policy can be shaped to best position Vermont’s rail interests to meet the needs of the state residents.

The forum, which will be held at the Hotel Coolidge at 39 South Main Street, is one of seven such public conversations the Board is holding around the state. Topics the Board plans to discuss include:

- Living with railroads as neighbors, and the issues they present.
- Passenger rail expansion along Vermont’s western corridor between Rutland and Burlington.
- Passenger rail expansion from various points in Vermont to Montreal.
- Truck traffic through villages and town centers, and the effect of rail expansion.
- Adjacent rail-side economic development and planning for increased rail activity.
- Starting commuter rail service linking Brattleboro to various points in Massachusetts.
- Rail Safety, including crossings, trespassing and response to potential emergency incidents.

“Vermont is poised to significantly expand passenger rail in the very near future, while at the same time the state also is seeking growth opportunities for both the movement and off-loading of freight,” said David Coen, Acting Chair of the Transportation Board. “As a result, we want to have a conversation with Vermonters to both hear their suggestions as well as understand their concerns regarding these new services and how the state uses its rail lines.”

People who cannot attend a forum can submit written comment by visiting the Board’s website at <http://tboard.vermont.gov/>. For more information, contact John Zicconi at [john.zicconi@vermont.gov](mailto:john.zicconi@vermont.gov) or by calling [802-828-2942](tel:802-828-2942).



Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main Street, Randolph, VT

**WORKSHOP WITH BRUCE MOLSKY- Saturday, November 12, 2 pm**

Join Bruce Molsky, Allison de Groot and Stash Wyslouch for a hands-on old time music workshop. All instruments are welcome. We'll learn a couple of tunes and work on old time style and ensemble playing, and just enjoy the experience of playing together. Experience level: for anyone who can learn short phrases of melody or simple chords by ear. Not recommended for brand new beginners.

Workshop fee: \$25

Contact [outreach@chandler-arts.org](mailto:outreach@chandler-arts.org) or 802-431-0204 for more info or to register

**MOLSKY'S MOUNTAIN DRIFTERS - Saturday, November 12, 7:30 pm**

Bruce Molsky, "one of America's premier fiddling talents" (Mother Jones) and Grammy-nominated artist on fiddle, banjo, guitar and song, is delighted to present his new group already on tour in the US. Allison de Groot and Stash Wyslouch join Molsky to form Molsky's Mountain Drifters.

General admission: adults \$18 advance, \$20 day of; students \$10; kids 5 and under free

Tickets: 802-728-6464 or online at [www.chandler-arts.org](http://www.chandler-arts.org)

**15th ANNUAL HOLIDAY MARKET- November 17-December 21**

Chandler's annual holiday artisans market offers shoppers a wide array of fine gifts for the holidays.

For more info: 802-431-0204 or [outreach@chandler-arts.org](mailto:outreach@chandler-arts.org)

**FILM: BIG NIGHT -Sunday, November 20, 6:30 pm**

Big Night is the story of two brothers (Tony Shalhoub, Stanley Tucci) whose Italian restaurant is on the brink of bankruptcy. Their only chance for success is to risk everything they own on an extravagant feast for bandleader Louis Prima. But their big night is complicated by a lovers' triangle, a sneaky restaurant rival, and the hilarious perfection of chef Primo. A treat for food lovers and movie lovers everywhere.

General admission: \$9 walk-in

For more info: [outreach@chandler-arts.org](mailto:outreach@chandler-arts.org) or 802-431-0204

**NO STRINGS MARIONETTE: JACK AND THE BEANSTALK- Saturday, November 26, 11 am**

Come experience this well-loved tale from Britain, retold with all the magic and mischief our marionettes can muster! Marmalade the cow's appetite drives the action from Jack's humble cottage to the magnificent castle high above in the clouds. With a nod to an ancient telling of the tale, we discover if Jack, by taking gold and geese from the giant's castle, is a thief, or simply reclaiming his family's heritage. After the event, join the Arts Bus for a workshop and popcorn in the Upper Gallery. Create your own shadow puppets—we'll even have a little theater where you can try them out!

General admission: all seats \$6

Tickets: 802-728-6464 or online at [www.chandler-arts.org](http://www.chandler-arts.org)

## 2016 Safe & Seen Halloween

Ghost, goblins, princesses, and superheroes filled the streets, as hundreds of children [and their parents] enjoyed a spooktacular Halloween complete with a costume parade, arts & crafts, and treats of candy, toys, and most importantly toothbrushes!.

Many thanks to the sponsors of the event: Lake Sunapee Bank, Rural Vermont Real Estate, Gifford Medical Center, Green Mountain Power, LED Dynamics, Northfield Savings Bank, Frankenburg Agency, and Catamount Solar.

Also thank you to Dr. Chris Wilson and Dr. Arthur Nippler for the dental supplies!

Finally, thank you to the Town of Randolph, The Arts Bus, Kimball Library, RACDC and the many volunteers whose work on this event made for an exceptional evening!

## ***Santa & Mrs. Claus are coming to town!! Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup>***

There is lots of family fun awaiting you ....

11am The Chandler will present the No Strings Marionette: Jack and the Beanstalk starting at 11am. General admission is \$6.00 (per seat).

Following the performance the Arts Bus will be offering popcorn and a craft workshop

12pm The WRV Chamber has invited Santa & Mrs. Claus' to join us in the upper gallery of the Chandler.

And parents, while your children are entertained, you can take time to shop at the annual Holiday Market that will be in full swing.

So much fun for everyone - all under one roof!! We hope to see you there!!

## NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Small Towns, BIG Heart is distributed to members of the WRV Chamber of Commerce and key leaders in the community (electronically).

All Chamber members are encouraged to submit information for the newsletter.

Information for consideration should be submitted to [info@whiterivervalleychamber.com](mailto:info@whiterivervalleychamber.com)

The publisher retains the right to edit submissions for content and space considerations.

Printed copies are available on request. If you would like printed copies for your waiting room, lobby, staff lounge, etc., please call us (or email us at the same address listed) and let us know.



**2016 Holiday Shopping Card Program  
Participant and Sponsorship Form**

**Yes, we'd like to be a part of the 2016 Holiday Shopping Program**

Business name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact email address \_\_\_\_\_

**We'd like to be a Sponsor:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Angel Level Sponsorship \$400

\_\_\_\_\_ Star Level Sponsorship \$250

\_\_\_\_\_ We'd like to sponsor a Grand Prize (\$100 value)

Description of Grand Prize \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ We'd like to be one of the Drop Box locations \$10

**We'd like to be a participant:**

\_\_\_ Enclosed is my \$40 check for participation

\_\_\_ AND a \$10 gift certificate to my business

**Forms must be received by *November 11, 2016***

White River Valley Chamber of Commerce,  
31 Vt. Rte. 66, Suite #1, Randolph, VT 05060  
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