

Newsletter



2024 Legislative Session Nearing

As we near the end of 2023, we're preparing for the 2024 legislative session and the issues pertaining to retailers, grocers, food producers, and distributors. Bills that did not make it through the legislative process during the 2023 session still have a chance for passage in 2024.

VRGA will be holding various stakeholder calls this fall leading up to the legislative session. We hope you'll join us for those discussions to help us hone our message, learn how you can affect change through efforts in your communities and speaking with your Senators and Representatives. Below are dates and times for the first meetings we will hold. Please RSVP by clicking on the link to register.

Bottle Bill Stakeholder Call
Tuesday, October 3 @ 9am

[Register in advance for this meeting](#)

Pre-Session General Legislative Update Call
Tuesday, December 12 @ 11am

[Register in advance for this meeting](#)

2024 Session General Legislative Update Call
Beginning January 9, 2024 @ 11: every other Tuesday during the Legislative Session

[Register in advance for this meeting](#)

Bottle Bill

While Governor Scott vetoed [H.158](#), the bill that would have expanded the scope of the bottle redemption program to include all beverage containers except wine, milk and plant-based beverage containers, cider, and kombucha, it's still possible that the legislature could override his veto come January.

The bill would also increase the handling fee from four cents to five cents, a long requested increase that has never passed due to the bill failing to pass. In addition, the proposes to create a producer responsibility organization (PRO) to manage and oversee the bottle redemption system and would expand the scope of containers covered by the program beginning in 2027. A majority of both chambers will need to vote in the affirmative to override the Governor's veto. As of last count, the Senate did not have the votes, but we strongly encourage members to contact their Senators.

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Legislative and Regulatory

Newsletter–September 2023



SNAP Hot Food Waiver Extended to October 17th

The USDA's Food Nutrition Service has partially approved the SNAP Hot Foods Waiver for an additional 30 days.

While FNS originally approved the waiver through August 18th, this waiver is now in effect through September 17, 2023. Please note: Not all counties are included in this extension. ONLY THE FOLLOWING COUNTIES can honor the use of SNAP benefits until October 17th. Caledonia, Chittenden, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham, and Windsor.

Find the most recent communication from FNS [here](#), as well as a sign that you can post on your counter [here](#).

Hot foods purchased with SNAP EBT benefits through October 17, 2023 are NOT subject to sales tax, as the foods mentioned above are considered SNAP eligible during this period. This does include cold salad bar items as well.

We encourage all SNAP authorized retail food stores in the above areas to post a special notice in the store letting SNAP customers know that they can use their SNAP EBT benefits to purchase hot foods and, where practical, may remain on the premises to consume those foods. Thank you for your assistance in aiding those impacted by the recent severe storms and flooding.

Hunger Action Month

Increased cost and inflation over the past few years have lead to climbing rates of food insecurity in Vermont. Learn more about how you can help this month [here](#).

We are looking for a Vice President to join our team! Please [click here for the job description and requirements](#). Email erin@vtrga.org with inquiries.

Banning Flavored Tobacco

The bill that would have banned the sale of all flavored tobacco in Vermont did not make it across the finish line this year. However, [S.18](#) passed the Senate for the first time in recent history at the end of March. The House Human Services Committee has signaled that they will be considering the bill in 2024. There is major support to pass the legislation in the House. As we've reported, Governor Scott throughout the 2023 legislative session has reported that he is not against the concept of the bill. The [Joint Fiscal Office has released numbers](#) showing an anticipated impact of only a \$4 million loss in revenue to the State, manufacturers, distributors, and retailers report that the implications are much higher. The Tax Department has reported that they have no ability to identify the tax revenue from flavored tobacco vs non-flavored, which causes a discrepancy. Manufacturers, distributors, and retailers across the state have reported losses that are much higher; closer to the \$28 million to \$35 million loss in tax revenue.

Legislative and Regulatory Contd

Newsletter-September 2023



Captive Audience, Card Check, Severe and Pervasive Standard and Elimination of No Rehire

While S.102, the bill known as the “captive audience” bill, did not pass, it will be considered in 2024. [S.102](#) would change the language in statute surrounding what meetings employers can require employees to attend. Employers would be banned from requiring employees participate in discussions surrounding religious or political matters. Given discussions today, meetings surrounding diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility would be considered political matters.

The bill also alters current law in a way that organizers can side-step the voting process by allowing the “card check” method rather than an election. A similar bill that was passed in CT is currently being litigated. Business community organizations continue to monitor and keep in touch regarding the bill.

Do you have questions about selling your business and planning for retirement?

Bryan Ducharme, Managing Partner of Venture 7 Advisors, will join other experts in presenting a free webinar series, offering practical guidance and strategies to help you prepare for a successful exit. The series is presented by Ledyard Financial Advisors.

There will be 5 half-hour sessions, from noon-12:30, on Monday September 25th through Friday September 29th with question and answer periods to follow.

[Get more information and sign up for the webinar series here](#)

Taxes - Candy, Sugar-sweetened beverages, and the Cloud

With legislation passed in 2023 that now makes covering the cost of school meals a permanent program, discussions will arise in identifying how to pay the \$33 million price tag. The perennial discussions surrounding the imposition of a candy tax and sugar-sweetened beverages are bound to arise again.

Further, taxation of the cloud - any software or online services that you use (your point of sale system, data security system, inventory management software, tax prep software, store security systems, etc.) - will be a topic of discussion. [Help us understand what type of software you use. Click here](#) to tell us what online services you use and if you're comfortable with it, please give us a ballpark estimate of what you pay for each service. This information will only be used in the aggregate and identifying information will not be shared with anyone outside of VRGA.

SNAP Benefit Allotments to Change October 1st

USDA has released the FY 2024 cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) to the SNAP maximum allotments, income eligibility standards, and deductions. The FY 2024 COLAs are effective as of October 1, 2023. The maximum allotments will increase for the 48 states and Washington D.C., Alaska, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands but will decrease slightly for Hawaii. The maximum allotment for a household of one in the 48 states and Washington D.C. will be \$291 and for a household of four will be \$973. The minimum benefit for the 48 states and Washington D.C. will remain the same at \$23.

Association News

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Disaster Unemployment Still Available

Individuals who have had their employment temporarily or permanently impacted by the July flooding and have not yet filed a claim for benefits are still encouraged to file for unemployment benefits by the September 29, 2023, deadline. After that date, DUA applications will no longer be accepted per federal program requirements. To submit a claim, contact the Vermont Unemployment Insurance Claimant Assistance Center at (877) 214-3330.

All individuals seeking disaster related benefits must first file for regular unemployment. If deemed ineligible for regular unemployment, the Department of Labor will contact them directly to file a DUA claim. Individuals filing for DUA may be required to provide proof of employment at the time of the disaster and proof of income for the 2022 tax year depending on their type of employment.

Once a weekly claim, or certification, is approved by the Department, a payment file is issued to the bank, and funds are deposited into the claimant's identified account within 1-2 business days. For general assistance regarding an existing DUA claim, claimants can contact the Department of Labor by phone at (877) 214-3332, option 1, or by email at Labor.DisasterUnemployment@vermont.gov

Flood Relief Grant Funding Still Available

Flood relief continues to be top of mind at the Department of Economic Development (DED). We are working diligently to review Business Emergency Gap Assistance Program (BEGAP) applications. That \$20 million dollar grant program is to help Vermont businesses and nonprofits that suffered physical damage in the July flooding. As a reminder, landlords are eligible for BEGAP grants to fix up rental units. To date, DED has received 441 completed BEGAP applications. Half have been approved; the other half are in the queue. \$4.4 million has been awarded so far with an average grant of \$19,971. There is still funding left. Apply today!

Tell Congress to Stand Up For Main Street – Support the Credit Card Competition Act

Swipe fees are most merchants' highest costs after labor and drive up prices paid by consumers by more than \$1,000 a year for the average family. The Credit Card Competition Act would require that there be at least two competing processing networks enabled on each card, potentially saving American businesses and consumers an estimated \$15 billion per year.

U.S. retailers and merchants pay the highest swipe fees in the world – \$126.4 billion in swipe fees were paid by businesses for credit card transactions in 2022, a 20% increase from the previous year.

NRF has spearheaded efforts for payments policy reform, including a grassroots campaign

Contact Vermont Delegation and Ask them to support the Credit Card Competition Act



VRGA 2024 Events

June 4, 2024 VRGA Annual Meeting
June 5, 2024 33rd Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament

Funding & Education

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Efficiency Vermont's Rebate for Businesses

Efficiency Vermont is offering a \$1,000 flood recovery rebate per product. An eligible customer is a business in the state of Vermont that sustained physical damage to its heating, cooling, refrigeration, or commercial kitchen equipment due to flooding on or after July 7, 2023. A complete rebate application must be received by Efficiency Vermont in order to receive the flood recovery rebate. Offer is limited to four flood recovery rebates per customer, in the amount of \$1,000 for each qualifying product purchased. Confirm eligibility at efficiencyvermont.com/rebates. Products must be listed on Efficiency Vermont's qualifying products list at the time of purchase. Equipment must be purchased on or before 7/7/2023. Used, rebuilt, or refurbished equipment is not eligible. Check out the application [here](#).

Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center

is hosting a few upcoming workshops to introduce buyers, sellers, and manufacturers to ConnexVT, an online platform that is a single, searchable supply chain solution. Sign up for the workshops [here](#), and learn more about ConnexVT [here](#).

Empowering Small Grocers: Mighty Community Markets Grocery Bootcamp

This 3-month program, called "Grocery Bootcamp" is designed to provide essential skills and knowledge to store leaders. It covers topics such as sales growth, financial metrics comprehension, confident decision-making, and understanding competition and differentiation. Regardless of location or customer base, this initiative aims to empower small grocery store owners to better meet the needs of their communities.

Small, independent grocery stores face unique challenges as they lack the built-in training programs available to large chain stores. These smaller businesses often operate in isolation, navigating the complexities of their industry. Columinate is holding this remote training program for small and independent grocery stores starting October 5, 2023.

AG
New England

Focused on the independent retailer, we tailor our meat and seafood offering to meet their diverse shoppers.

CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF
CHAIRMAN'S RESERVE PRIME PORK
NORTH COAST

Associated Grocers of New England • (603) 223-6710 • [AGNE.com](https://www.agne.com)
11 Cooperative Way • Pembroke, NH 03275
Contact Paul Greenan, (603) 223-5430 • pgreenan@agne.com
or Nathan Beit, (603) 223-5436 • nbeit@agne.com

[f](#) Associated Grocers of New England [@AGNewEngland](#) [@AGNewEngland](#)

AG Associated Grocers of New England is a full service Cooperative Grocery Wholesaler supplying Supermarkets and Convenience Stores from Maine to New York.



PROTECTING YOUR PIECE OF THE WORLD

WHO WE ARE

MMG Insurance has been protecting neighborhood businesses in Vermont since 1981, and we are proud to be the VRGA's endorsed insurance carrier.

Our team of local, experienced, and knowledgeable professionals understand your insurance needs and are committed to providing best-in-class service.



WHAT WE OFFER

- **Premium Savings including a 5% Credit on Business Insurance**
- **Comprehensive Coverage for Property, Liability, Auto, & More**
- **Local and Prompt Service**
- **Ease of Doing Business with Your Agent**

FIND OUT MORE

Contact the VRGA or your local agent and ask about MMG Insurance.



Tips from our Partners

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Department of Environmental Conservation

Wondering how to get rid of special recycling, hazardous items, waste, food scraps, and more, locally? [Ask your local waste experts or explore their informative webpages.](#) Every town or waste district in Vermont has someone who can answer your questions and has an online, searchable A-Z Guide where you can learn how to manage a wide variety of items in your region. [Contact your solid waste district or town at 802recycles.com](#) or call 802-828-1138 for assistance.

Hunger Free Vermont

Do you accept SNAP/3SquaresVT as a payment option? If so, be sure your customers know by hanging signage in your entryway and at check-out, and including information on your website or social media. Use [this sign](#) or email Ivy (ienoch@hungerfreevt.org) to have laminated signs printed and mailed to you free of charge!

The VRGA 2024 Scholarship Application is now open!

[Click here for a flyer to post in your store](#)



Member Benefits

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Business Insurance Program

MMG Insurance offers a comprehensive and competitive insurance program designed for your business. Exclusive 5% discount for members.



Multi-state 401K Program

Provide great retirement plans to yourself and your staff, without the high cost, liability, and time drain of paperwork oversight. Member Chris Henry, President of The Medical Store, shares, "we ended up saving over \$12,000 annually" [Learn more.](#)



Credit-Debit Card Processing

New programs where you pass the processing fees onto your customers are available. [Members report a savings of 10-40%.](#)



Vision Insurance

Low cost vision program with major benefits. Monthly premiums starting at \$5.95/mo.

DeltaVision®

Dental Insurance

Access to a variety of affordable plan options with no minimum enrollments. Plans starting at \$38/mo.



Get the most out of your membership

The Vermont Retail and Grocers Association has partnered with these organizations after careful consideration and review. VRGA believes these organizations can offer superior customer service along with considerable savings to member businesses. In addition to these benefits, we offer a comprehensive package of services. [Learn more about our services here.](#)

[Discover benefits](#)

Payroll Services

A Vermont company offering easy and economical payroll services. Services include payroll checks, tax filings, reports, new hire reporting and more. Member discount & savings of up to \$150. [Learn more.](#)



For more information about various benefits please email info@vtrga.org.

Insights On How the Food Industry Can Stay Fresh

Consumer demand for fresh foods is on the rise, with 41% of food retail sales in 2022 coming from fresh departments, according to Rick Stein, VP of fresh foods at the Food Industry Association (FMI). FMI's FreshForward Conference highlighted the industry's need to sustain this momentum by addressing evolving consumer needs, including concerns about animal welfare and the environment. E-commerce is playing a significant role in increasing fresh food consumption, with opportunities for further growth by enhancing educational and digital experiences. Additionally, engaging with Generation Z, known for their preference for fresh and less-processed foods, is crucial, and retailers like Kroger are using social platforms to connect with this demographic through influencers, transparency, and quality-focused messaging. Read the full article [here](#).

Grocery Chains Turn to Smaller-Format Stores Amid Rising Costs: Opportunities for Independent Grocers

Some grocery chains are adapting to rising costs by opening smaller-format stores, aiming to reduce operational expenses and provide consumers with more efficient shopping experiences. For instance, Meijer has launched smaller-format markets that emphasize fresh, locally-sourced food and innovative technology, attracting customers with higher-than-average median household incomes. Similarly, Wegmans has opened smaller-format stores that outperform larger locations in terms of visits per square foot, and H-E-B is succeeding with a 12,000-square-foot store in downtown San Antonio. Independent grocers, typically operating smaller stores, can capitalize on this trend by combining smaller formats with superior service, fresh selections, and community engagement.

Key Takeaways from the 2023 Independent Grocers Financial Survey Webinar

The Independent Grocers Financial Survey, conducted in partnership with NGA, reveals that despite challenges related to inflation and supply chain issues, independent grocers remained profitable. Many independents reinvested in their businesses, with 48% increasing capital expenditures and 34% remodeling stores. Inflation fueled growth, but it was primarily due to price increases, as unit and volume sales decreased. Strongest growth occurred in the produce, deli, and bakery departments. Despite rising expenses, particularly in labor and benefits, independent grocers managed to maintain stable profit margins. Net profit and EBITDA were down, but still above 2019 levels. Consumers, although concerned about inflation, are open to splurging, offering opportunities for retailers to capture incremental sales through strategic pricing and marketing efforts.

View the full webinar [here](#).

Understanding the Evolving Dynamics of Consumer Food Decisions

The International Food Information Council's annual Food and Health Survey highlights that while taste remains a key factor influencing food choices, other factors such as rising food costs, social media content, food labels, health and nutrition concerns, and environmental impact also play significant roles in shaping American food preferences. Younger generations are particularly influenced by social media, with many making healthier choices and trying new recipes or products based on online content. Food labels emphasizing freshness and low sugar are popular, and concerns about the environmental impact are impacting meat, poultry, produce, dairy, and seafood purchasing decisions. Despite these factors, taste and price still hold sway as top drivers for food decisions.

View the full webinar [here](#).

Tips from our Partners

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MMG Insurance

Slips, trips, and falls are among the most common causes of injury in the workplace and the community.

However, you can help keep your employees and customers from being hurt this way at your business by following these tips:

- Clean up spills immediately.
 - Place “wet floor” warning signs if there is a spill or if the floor remains wet after clean-up.
 - Keep walkways and hallways free of clutter and obstacles.
 - Keep filing cabinets and drawers closed when not in use.
 - Cover cords or cables in walkways.
 - Replace light bulbs promptly.
 - Make sure walkways, hallways, stairs, dock areas, entrances, and exits are well lit.
 - Install and secure mats and carpets to ensure they remain flat.
 - Remove small throw rugs.
 - Treat winter conditions with salt and sand as necessary.
 - Paint and clearly mark curb stops.
- Visit [our website](#) for more Business Owner Best Practices on these risks.

Bar Harbor Bank

More Common Fraud Threats:

Malicious Software

Malicious Software can be commonly known as Malware, Virus, Trojan, Worm, or Spyware. It is used to cause damage to your computer or steal information from you. To help protect your computer and your information:

- Enable automatic updates for your operating system and applications
- Install anti-malware software and be sure it is up to date
- Back up your data
- Do not allow remote access to your device

Social Media

Social Media accounts are a common place for fraudsters to get your information. You cannot take back what you post, and posting too much information regarding your activities, friends, work, and life can enable criminals to target you. To protect yourself:

- Don't share sensitive information on social media
- Secure your online accounts with two-factor authentication
- Don't accept friend requests from people you don't know

FDA clarifies results of recent advisory committee meeting on oral phenylephrine

The Food and Drug Administration held a Non-prescription Drug Advisory Committee meeting Sept. 11-12, 2023, to discuss the effectiveness of oral phenylephrine as an active ingredient in over-the-counter (OTC) cough and cold products that are indicated for the temporary relief of congestion, both as a single ingredient product and in combination with other ingredients.

The committee found that current scientific data do not support its effectiveness as a nasal decongestant but didn't raise safety concerns at recommended doses. The FDA will consider this input before deciding on phenylephrine's status. If it's deemed ineffective, manufacturers would need to reformulate products. Consumers are advised to read labels carefully and note that this decision doesn't affect phenylephrine nasal sprays. [Read more here.](#)

Americans' views of the U.S. political system have reached new lows,

According to a PEW survey that reveals near-record distrust of the government, disgust with both political parties and general exhaustion over all the divisiveness. Trust in the government is near a 70-year low, with just 16% of the public saying they trust the federal government at least most of the time. Also, a growing number of younger voters are rejecting the two-party system and claiming to be independent.

However, Axios reports that a third-party solution is not so straightforward. 68% of Americans overall say they at least somewhat wish there were more parties to choose from, but they're not convinced that having more than two major parties would make it easier to solve the nation's problems.

Report Indicates US Holiday Sales on Track for Slowest Year Since 2018 as Consumers Embrace Frugality

Holiday sales in the United States are projected to have their slowest growth in five years, with estimates of a 3.5% to 4.6% increase between November and January, totaling \$1.54 trillion to \$1.56 trillion, according to a Deloitte report. This marks a significant drop from the 7.6% growth seen in 2022, as concerns over the economy and reduced household savings prompt consumers to spend more cautiously. Factors like the resumption of student loan payments, rising gas prices, and high-interest rates have contributed to this cautious approach. Online shopping is expected to perform well, with growth between 10.3% and 12.8%, but a potential slowdown in the job market could limit overall holiday spending. Despite these challenges, some retailers remain optimistic due to strong back-to-school sales trends.

Despite an Economic Slowdown, Retail Sales Continued to Grow in August

Retail sales increased in August, primarily driven by parents shopping for school supplies and other essential items, despite ongoing inflation and high interest rates, according to the National Retail Federation (NRF). While NRF President and CEO Matthew Shay noted that consumers remain steadfast in the face of inflation and higher interest rates, NRF Chief Economist Jack Kleinhenz observed a slowdown in consumer spending momentum, partly due to reduced pandemic-related savings and rising credit costs. The NRF's data showed an overall retail sales increase of 0.6% from July and a 2.5% year-over-year increase in August, with a focus on core retail categories, which saw a 0.1% seasonally adjusted monthly increase and a 3.3% unadjusted year-over-year increase.

Increasing Caffeine Levels Prompt Demands to Prohibit Sales of Energy Drinks to Children

Pediatricians and concerned parents are urging the United States to treat high-caffeine energy drinks similarly to alcohol and cigarettes by implementing a ban on their sale to minors. These energy drinks, like Prime Energy, Ghost, and "Kimade," contain as much as 200 mg of caffeine per serving, exceeding permissible levels in other countries. Despite the increasing caffeine content in these beverages, the U.S. and the UK lack national regulations restricting their sale to minors. Dr. Holly Benjamin, a professor of pediatrics and orthopedic surgery at the University of Chicago, highlights the need for better product labeling and education, along with potential regulation. There is no established safe caffeine dose for children, and consumption of high-caffeine energy drinks by kids can lead to various side effects, including heart irregularities, headaches, seizures, and mental health issues. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is currently reviewing a request by Senator Chuck Schumer to investigate Prime Energy's caffeine content and marketing practices targeting children. The American Medical Association supports a ban on marketing caffeine drinks to kids and advocates for child-resistant packaging on high-energy drinks. Retailers like GNC have set age restrictions for purchasing energy drinks, but not all major retailers, consistently verify buyers' ages.

2022 Retail Security Survey

The 2022 Retail Security Survey provides comprehensive insights into national retail security issues, covering topics such as inventory shrink, employee integrity, and organized retail crime, with the aim of understanding the challenges and threats faced by retailers.

Retailers and Suppliers Foster Profitable and Sustainable Circular Economy Initiatives

Retailers are increasingly adopting circular economy practices to meet consumer demand for sustainability. This involves exploring resale and rental options, improving reverse logistics operations, promoting product redesign, repair, and refurbishing, as well as facilitating recycling and refilling. Major brands like Neiman Marcus, Patagonia, and IKEA have embraced resale or rental models. The global secondhand apparel market is expected to reach \$350 billion by 2027. Retailers are also making strides in optimizing reverse logistics to maximize the value of returned products. Promoting product durability and repairability and embracing refilling and reusing are additional circular economy strategies.

The Growing Threat of Organized Retail Crime: Impact and Solutions

Organized retail crime (ORC) has become a major concern for retailers and communities alike, with a significant increase in its scope, complexity, and violence. This large-scale theft of retail merchandise, often involving criminal groups employing threats and violence, poses a substantial threat to both employees and customers. Retailers have lost billions to shrink, and the majority of consumers believe retail crimes like shoplifting have risen since the pandemic. The Combating Organized Retail Crime Act is a legislative effort to combat this issue, creating an interagency center to help retailers share data and enable law enforcement to investigate and prosecute ORC gangs effectively. Despite the inconvenience of anti-theft security measures, retailers prioritize safety and support such legislation to protect their employees and customers from this pervasive threat.

How to Find the Best POS System For You



When it comes to point-of-sale systems, there are many choices. Choosing the one best suited for you is an important decision, as it will directly affect the efficiency of your business operations and the customer experience.

We've summarized five POS systems and what they can do for your business. Free demos are available, and many offer custom options, so be sure to ask plenty of questions before you make your decision.

1. **Wix:** For those business owners seeking to do everything in one place, Wix is the answer. Wix enables you to build, manage and grow a fully integrated platform, creating a seamless shopping experience for customers across all channels. That means you can customize and sell items online, in store, on social media channels like Facebook and Instagram, and on online marketplaces like Amazon and eBay. The user-friendly system automatically calculates sales tax, and it integrates with QuickBooks and Avalara simplified tax reporting. If you need to create a website, you can use one of more than 1,000 beautiful templates or have Wix designers do it for you. Wix is great for businesses that sell retail products and tickets, such as apple orchards.

2. **Epos Now:** A great solution for retail, delis, restaurants, small grocery stores or country stores, Epos Now is a robust system with features like weight scale integration, accounting and marketing tools, employee clock-in and clock-out, and detailed, customizable reporting. A purchase of wine, beer or liquor will alert the cashier to check for ID, and the system can automatically detect EBT-eligible products versus non-eligible products.



3. **Lavu:** The number-one rated POS system for restaurants, Lavu is all about customization to meet your specific needs. With Lavu, you can manage orders and payments, track inventory, send orders to the kitchen, post on kitchen display systems (KDS), set up self-ordering kiosks, identify menu best-sellers, get detailed reporting and manage employee clock-in and clock-out. Your customers can order online or at tableside, and you can create QR codes for your menus. With consistently high ratings for customer service, Lavu is a popular choice for casual restaurants and elegant eateries alike.

4. **AprivaPay:** Known as an affordable solution, AprivaPay allows you to only pay for what you need. AprivaPay Mobile lets you run your business from your Apple, Android or Amazon mobile device, while AprivaPay Register is built for any business that needs a countertop payment solution. The register includes features like integration with cash drawers, printers and card readers. With AprivaPay, you can email and text receipts, generate digital invoices, pull reports, manage users and more. Apriva is also a great solution for unattended payments, from vending machines and kiosks to micro-markets.

5. **CloudPOS:** CloudPOS is a system for those who want to keep it simple. There are no monthly fees, no SaaS fees and no cloud data storage. Devices range from an all-in-one register to a mobile option with a docking station. Available add-ons include a custom image on a customer-facing display, a cash drawer and a 1D or 2D scanner.

To start the conversation, contact our partner, RCSC, at (800) 442-3589 and ask for Michele Coons.

Member News | Classifieds

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New Members this Month

Ben and Buckys LLC
Cascades
Stowe Street Cafe

Looking for
something from a
previous newsletter?

[CLICK HERE](#)

Support Flood Recovery Efforts

The State of Vermont is currently selling "Vermont Strong" license plates to the public to raise funds for flood recovery. If you would like to help raise funds for the [Vermont Community Foundation flood recovery fund](#) and the ACCD [Business Emergency Gap Assistance Program](#) by selling this plates in your retail space, you can now place a bulk order of the plates through the [Vermont DMV website](#). All proceeds from the plates will go to support those impacted by the flooding including retail businesses in the most impacted areas. Bringing these plates into your storefront to sell them is a great way to raise awareness about the impact of the flood and give Vermonters and visitors alike a way to support the recovery efforts quickly and directly.

Members Reopening

Woodstock Farmer's Market reopened their doors at their Woodstock location this month. Bailey Road also hosts their reopening weekend next week, from September 28- October 1. After the July flooding, they have been working to repair and rebuild. Congratulations!

The Maple 100

This month-long, annual promotion highlights the hundreds of maple activities, adventures, and maple-inspired products available across Vermont. It will run from September 15- October 15, 2023.

Join Member [Jed's Maple Products](#) at "[Maple, Apple, Pumpkin, Oh My! Jed's Fall Open House](#)" on October 7-8 at 259 Derby Pond Rd, Derby, VT for wood-fired maple pizza, mulled apple cider, specialty food sampling, and children's activities in the beautiful fall foliage of Vermont.

Association Staff is here to help!

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