2012 a Successful Year for SRDC & Southern Windsor County
By Bob Flint, Executive Director

As 2012 comes to a close, we, at SRDC, are once again thankful for all of the support from the communities we serve and the loyal members who help to make our work possible.

We held our Annual Meeting a few weeks ago at Harpoon Brewery and had a lot to share. We have had a busy and successful year. In fact, we have been involved in something in each of our municipalities, which we hope is the case every year.

The mammoth One Hundred River Street project finally opened in 2012. The Great Hall has hosted several public events, showcasing remarkable art that has brought an exciting new energy to this historic space. And, the new Springfield Health Center is a visible example of the importance of primacy care. We continue to work with the owners/developers in bringing more occupants to the building, with a pharmacy and café coming in the near future.

We are also slowly moving forward with the redevelopment of the former J & L Plant 1 and Bryant Grider facilities. There was some remediation work at J & L this past year, specifically related to asbestos removal and pumping out contaminated fluids from the underground vaults. SRDC received a $200,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency and we are about to bid out a large portion of the clean-up work that would occur next spring.

The Bryant building is moving through the assessment process and we also recently completed a structural engineering analysis. Even though Irene has come and gone, the impact is still being felt by businesses around the state. SRDC has partnered with our friends at Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation to apply for a $1 million Community Development Block Grant. The intent is to offer small companies who are still demonstrating an unmet need related to Irene to apply for subgrants to help them get back on their feet. We will be hearing about whether we receive the CDBG before the holidays and, if we’re successful, we will roll out an application process in early January.

SRDC’s main job is working with companies to help them be in a position to succeed. Ideally, it’s to help them to grow and expand, but sometimes it’s about finding a way to survive. It’s also to nurture ideas and watch them blossom into reality.

NBC Solid Surfaces was a success story for many years, but the recession dealt the company a fatal blow earlier this year. SRDC worked with the company to help it survive as long as possible, and then we have assisted a new owner who has brought the business back to life as Artisan Surfaces.

Our friends at Black River Produce continue to grow not only by adding a large solar installation on their headquarters, the former Idennot property, but also be purchasing and renovating the empty Ellsworth/Ben & Jerry’s site. There’s a lot going on in the North Springfield Industrial Park, which is about to reclaim its original moniker – Precision Park.

IEVK’s Mark Tanny, who has been a valued member of the SRDC Board, has been spearheading an effort to put up a new Park sign that not only would list the companies in the Park, but also “send a message” in showing the economic vitality of our region. There’s more information about you can get involved in the Park sign project elsewhere in the newsletter and we are very thankful to Mark and Tracey Tanny for their hard work.

Hopefully, you’ve had an opportunity to learn more about the proposed North Springfield Sustainable Energy Project. SRDC has been a strong supporter of this transformational economic development project and has been working with the Winstanley/Weaton team as this moves through the Act 248 process.

The Annual Meeting was held at Harpoon Brewery, and we had the opportunity to hear from Dan Kenary about the remarkable success that the company has had in their Vermont location, a once-shuttered facility that is now the heart of an economic engine. The Windsor Park is alive, thanks in large part to the vision of Terry McDonnell, who has been resolute in his passion for experiential commerce, where you can see and interact with the people who make the product.

SRDC, with support from VEDA, built a new building in the Park, that now houses Vermont Farmstead Cheese and Sustainable Farmer. VFC has already announced expansion plans and is showing that SRDC’s investment is paying dividends for Windsor and the region.

Also in the Park is a soon-to-open home of American Crafted Spirits. We have been involved with Peter Jillson in helping to bring his vision to life. We can’t wait to try SILO vodka in the New Year.

On behalf of the SRDC staff, Kelli, Melanie and Paul, I want to thank you for your faith and support and wish all of you, and your families, a happy Holiday Season. We look forward to sharing news of continued growth in 2014, for the benefit of our towns, businesses and residents.
Vermont Small Business Development News

Chester Andover Family Center did it! They made a commitment to the towns of Chester and Andover to expand their services (both a food shelf and a thrift shop) in this difficult economic environment. And they delivered! After 24 months of very hard work they have opened their new location.

The new building allows them more space and the opportunity to expand services. They can now partner with the Vermont Food Bank (the old second floor location disqualified them from participation) and offer more food. And there is lots of easy parking. The new space also will allow them to do more education on nutrition which has long been their goal.

The thrift shop which is already legendary has new, much bigger space and has expanded products, now has a real dressing room and a book cove (with shelves from the old school library).

CAFC came to the SRDC to ask for assistance with this process. Bob advised them to work with VtSBDC Area Advisor, Debra Boudrieau, who says, “I admit I thought this was going to be a hard sell to a bank in this environment but I never doubted their resolve and dedication. The intrepid duo of Sandy and Sherry spent countless hours putting together a business plan and secured a bank loan from People’s Bank. They navigated innumerable fire safety and building inspections, got town and state approval, forged new relationships and wrote hundreds of pages of grant applications. And they did all of it with incredible spirit, dedication, graciousness, and a stick to it attitude that makes them true Vermon ters and real entrepreneurs.”

The SRDC and VtSBDC congratulate the team at CACF and are grateful to have been able to support this amazing group. To learn more about the Chester Andover Family Center:  http://chester-andoverfamilycenter.weebly.com/index.html

Economically Speaking

The Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center (VMEC) is a not-for-profit center that provides consulting and training to help manufacturers improve operations, increase productivity, reduce costs, and improve competitiveness.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS FOR VERMONT MANUFACTURING EXTENSION CENTER

All VMEC workshops in Springfield are conducted at the Howard Dean Center, and run from 8:00 to 4:00, except for Profit 101, which finishes at noon. For more information and to register, call (802) 728-1432. check us at www.vmec.org/calendar.

The 5S Systems: Workplace Organization and Standardization
March 14, 2013 Springfield, VT

Fundamentals of Lean Office 101
April 18, 2013 Springfield, VT

Principles of Lean Manufacturing 101
May 14, 2013 Springfield, VT
SRDC Receives $200K EPA Cleanup Grant for J & L Site

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced this summer that Vermont was the recipient of nearly $1.5 million in EPA brownfields grants. One of those was awarded to Springfield Regional Development Corporation, which will use their funds to remediate environmental contamination at the former Jones & Lamson Plant 1 site. This funding is being combined with two additional cleanup subgrants funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. These subgrants, funded by the Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development and the Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission, bring the total brownfields cleanup funding leveraged for this project, to date, to over $775,000.

The award was presented by Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin and EPA Region One Administrator Curt Spaulding.

SRDC Executive Director Bob Flint thanked EPA and state and regional partners, including the Town of Springfield and the Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission. “SRDC is committed to bringing this important property back to use for the economic vitality of the Springfield area”, Flint said.

“The funding made available from EPA will allow us to continue to redevelop contaminated sites in Vermont,” Governor Shumlin said. “These awards will help Vermont communities return brownfield properties to a productive use and will allow for greater economic development opportunities.”

The goal of EPA Brownfields grants is to lead to the clean up & sustainable redevelopment of Brownfields sites, thus improving the economy and quality of life in American communities. The funding is part of more than $17 million in EPA Brownfields investments across the six New England states announced by EPA in 2012.

“EPA Brownfields funding helps strengthen the economic foundation and is a catalyst for further growth in our communities,” said Curt Spalding, regional administrator of EPA New England’s office. “Cleaning and revitalizing contaminated sites helps create jobs, and can help a community to create new businesses and neighborhood centers, while making our environment cleaner and the community healthier.”
Lovejoy Tool Purchases New 5 Axis Manufacturing Machine

Lovejoy Tool Company announced that they have added a new Hermle 5 axis machining center to their manufacturing facility in Springfield, Vermont. Lovejoy has been a leader in the precision cutting tool industry since 1916 and this new machine will allow for increased production capacity.

The Hermle is a state of the art machine. With its 5 axis, it can create complex, high precision parts in production quantities, taking the expertise of the Lovejoy engineers and allowing the company to keep up with increased demand.

The machine weighs roughly 18,000 pounds and sits on 8 inches of reinforced concrete. The unit is connected to the Internet and troubleshooting or diagnostics can be done online.

For Lovejoy, the new Hermle signifies a continued commitment to excellence in manufacturing. According to Lovejoy Tool President Doug Priestley, “This new machine will help us grow our specials product line as well as better serve our long-time core customers”. He added that the faster cycle and tool change times that are now possible will help to lead to shortened delivery times for product orders.

Lovejoy Tool Company has been a supplier of standard and unique cutting tools for over ninety years to customers in a variety of industries. Learn more about the company at www.lovejoytool.com or call 800-843-8376.

The Return of Precision Park

Almost fifty years ago, The Skitchewaug Development Corporation, later known as the Precision Valley Development Corporation, created “Precision Park”. Encouraged by the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, a group of area business people started purchasing property in the mid 1960’s and included the eventual relocation of the Fellows Gear Shaper plant in 1970 to what is now 36 Precision Drive.

In recent years, the Park has been known as the North Springfield Industrial Park. Today, the Park is reclaiming its heritage and original name. Precision Park is currently the home of thirteen local companies and has property available for additional growth. As Precision Park continues to grow, so too comes the need for a quality sign to direct customers and vendors to local businesses. With the help of and generous donations from local companies, SRDC is erecting a new sign for the Park.

The sign will be constructed with a Douglas Fir frame, on top of a solid concrete foundation encased with a 4 inch thick granite exterior. Inside the granite, a void will provide protective space for a Time Capsule. The sign will be double-sided and strategically placed to direct traffic coming from both directions. Engraving on the granite base will allow companies and individuals to become a permanent part of the sign.

For prices and more information on how you can be apart of the Precision Park Directional Sign. Please contact—Springfield Regional Development Corporation at 802-885-3061 or email Bob Flint at bobf@springfielddevelopment.org.
Vermont Farmstead Cheese Ribbon Cutting -Windsor, VT

SRDC celebrated the Grand Opening of its new building in Windsor this fall, featuring the new production and distribution home of Vermont Farmstead Cheese as well as the Sustainable Farmer retail store.

Governor Peter Shumlin joined SRDC's Bob Flint in marking the opening of the new economic development facility, which was financed through a VEDA subchapter 3 loan. Earlier this year, Gov. Shumlin helped VFC prepare what turned out to be an award-winning cheddar at their Woodstock farm location.

At the event, Vince Galluccio of Vermont Farmstead Cheese noted that the "cut-wrap" operations were already underway at the new Windsor facility and announced that the company was planning two additional phases of expansion at the Windsor site.

The Sustainable Farmer store showcases VFC product as well as cheeses, maple syrup and other locally sourced items.

SRDC is the owner of the facility in partnership with Terry McDonnell of Great Bear Realty. "I think it's going to be very exciting, not only for what you see today, but also what's going to be coming down the line", Flint said at the event.

Windsor Distillery Nears Production-

The new American Crafted Spirits company is nearing completion on the construction of a new 3,000 square-foot facility in Windsor that will serve as an artisan distillery.

SRDC has been working with company owner Peter Jillson for over a year on seeing this project from concept to fruition, including assisting with pulling the financing partners together, Connecticut River Bank and VEDA.

American Crafted Spirits will first produce SILO vodka, a organic grain-based beverage that is made from Vermont source material.

VEDA's Jo Bradley said that "VEDA is pleased to help support the start-up plans of businesses, such as American Crafted Spirits".

SRDC's Bob Flint noted that there will be natural synergies between the company and its neighbors in the Park, such as Harpoon Brewery, Vermont Farmstead Cheese and Sustainable Farmer.

American Crafted Spirits expects to be open and producing SILO vodka early next year.
Springfield Regional Development Corporation

14 Clinton Street, Ste. 7
Springfield, VT 05156
Phone: 802-885-3061
Fax: 802-885-3027
Email: bobf@springfielddevelopment.org

MAJOR SRDC SUPPORTERS
Town of Springfield
Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development
Windsor Improvement Corp.
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For information about SRDC membership, please call Bob at 885-3061 or email bobf@springfielddevelopment.org!

Come check out our Website! www.springfielddevelopment.org
Or on Facebook!