



FreshTracks Invests in Culture Fresh Foods

FreshTracks is pleased to announce its recent investment in [Culture Fresh Foods](#) which will produce non-dairy, plant-based products that include yogurts, milks, butters, spreads, and protein beverages. Founded by Tom Moffitt, Culture Fresh will open production in the former YoCrunch facility in CT. Tom founded Commonwealth Dairy, which was based in Brattleboro, Vermont. Read coverage here: [Startup Converts Yogurt Facility to Plant-Based Alternative](#) and [Former Dairy Yogurt Guy Raises \\$11M.](#)



Drink Simple Releases Sparkling Maple Water; Collaborates with King's Row Coffee for Whole Foods Market

Drink Simple has released its newest product, [sparkling maple water](#) available in three flavors. Drink Simple Sparkling Maple Water is totally organic, nutrient-packed, tree-based hydration with no added sugar.

Drink Simple (drinksimple.com), and King's Row Coffee (kingsnitrobrew.com), have launched a maple water nitro cold brew into North Atlantic Whole Foods Market stores this month. The first of its kind, King's Brew Maple Water is crafted by steeping King's Row's Arabica coffee beans in Drink Simple's organic maple water for a velvety smooth, creamy texture. "We couldn't be more excited to join forces with another local New England brand to bring this super hydrating cold brew to market. Our companies' values align perfectly as we are both committed and passionate about creating healthful, delicious and natural beverages to help people live and feel their best," said Kate Weiler, Founder of Drink Simple. Read more here: [Drink Simple and King's Row Introduce Maple Water Cold Brew into Whole Foods Market](#)

DRINK SIMPLE™



Caledonia Spirits' New Distillery Opens; Save the Bees: Drink Craft Cocktails

Caledonia Spirits' new 27,000 square-foot distillery is now open. Listen to Seven Days' food writer Melissa Pasanen report on the facility, the company's background, and its award winning spirits: [VPR Cafe: New Digs for Distillery](#)

Caledonia Spirits hosts [Bee's Knees Week](#) every September, a nationwide cocktail fundraiser that benefits organizations that educate the public about the essential role

bees and other pollinators play in our environment. “It’s highly publicized that bees and pollinators are as vulnerable as ever in today’s world, with pesticides and climate change serving as two of the main reasons,” says [Caledonia Spirits'](#) head distiller Ryan Christiansen. “Part of our mission is to protect bees and other pollinators. The foundation of the distillery’s three flagship spirits – Barr Hill Gin, Tom Cat Gin, and Barr Hill Vodka – is raw northern honey, a sublime ingredient that obviously wouldn’t exist without the hard-working bees of the Northeast.”

Read more at:

[How To Save The Bees By Drinking Craft Cocktails](#)
["Best of Vermont" Spirits Distilleries](#)



Benchmark Space Systems to Debut With Launch in 2020; Senator Leahy Tours Company

Benchmark Space Systems, developer of satellite space technologies, will join Firefly Aerospace (Austin, TX) on an inaugural flight to space in early 2020. Benchmark Space focuses on providing non-toxic propulsion systems for small satellites.

Senator Patrick Leahy recently toured the company and had this to say, ““What they’re doing here couldn’t have been dreamed of 20 years ago, 25 years ago. I mean it’s like when the Apollo went up all the computer systems in Houston, on board it and everything else far less computing power far less than what I’ve got here in this phone. You know what you’re doing here is state-of-the-art. It’s innovative and it’ll be standard in just a few years.”

Read more coverage at the links below:

[Benchmark Space Systems Joins Inaugural Firefly Aerospace Launch](#)
[Vermont Space Company to Debut its Product Next Year](#)
[Senator Patrick Leahy Tours Benchmark Space Systems](#)



CEO Ryan McDevitt and Lead Electrical Engineer Paul Shephard show Senator Leahy a CubeSat

(Credit: Pat Bradley/WAMC)

Mamava in Walmart Stores; Best States for Breastfeeding Moms

Walmart is the first retailer to pilot Mamava lactation suites, introducing the pods at 3 Walmart locations in Vermont, Arizona, and Arkansas. Two years in the making, the idea came from Tennille Webb, a Walmart employee who saw a pod in an airport and took the concept back to her bosses at Walmart in Bentonville who ran it up the corporate ladder. “We applaud Walmart for taking this step to help support moms who choose to breastfeed. This is an important shopping demographic and this convenience could also be a traffic driver,” Mamava EVP Nikkie Kent said. “A busy mom running the carpool could know she can stop at local Walmart and breastfeed the baby and also pick up the diapers and something for dinner on the way out.”

In Maine, Bath Iron Works is the state's first employer to install Mamava pods.

Read more at the links below:

[Mamava Pods Piloted in Three Walmart Stores](#)

[Best States for Breastfeeding Moms](#)

[Bath Iron Works Installs Mamava Pods](#)



Virtual Peaker Hosts Innovation Forum, Features GMP

Virtual Peaker will bring together utility experts, policy specialists, program implementers, and energy buffs from every corner of the country to Louisville to discuss the future of the energy industry. GMP will be featured in an Innovation Workshop, leading the half-day workshop that will focus on designing effective programs, meeting renewable generation goals, and managing the rapidly changing policy landscape.

Read more at: [Virtual Peaker Innovation Forum](#)



Windham Grows Farm Business Accelerator Seeks Entrepreneurs

The Windham Grows Farm Business Accelerator is seeking farmer-entrepreneurs for a November Cohort that will include mentoring, in-kind resources, physical space, educational experience and technical expertise to help build dynamic new farm businesses while leveraging one of Vermont's most valuable assets — land.

"Entrepreneurs receive mentoring, access to subject matter experts, connections to capital and non-capital resources," said Cairn Cross, co-founder and managing director of FreshTracks Capital, who is an Entrepreneur-in-Residence for Windham Grows. "And cohort members become a collaborative peer group."

"The program consists of three weekend residencies in Brattleboro and regular video meetings," said Cross. "We also provide outside consulting services tailored to the needs of individual farmer entrepreneurs to help them move their companies to the next level, as well as prepare them for the level after that."

Applications for the November program are due September 30. Learn more: [Farm Business Accelerator Seeks Entrepreneurs](#). Apply here: [Windham Grows Farm Business Accelerator Application](#)

Briefly Noted

[Social Sentinel Awarded "2019 Best Electronic Systems Technologies" by Campus Safety](#)

[Ogee Offers Coconut-Infused Skin Care Products](#)

[Kafina Energy Now Available on BUBBLE](#)

[LaunchVT-Starting a Business in Vermont](#)

[LaunchVT to Create Peer Network](#)

Upcoming Events

September 16 [SBA's SBIR Road Tour - \\$3B Seed Fund Presentation](#)

September 17 2019 [Vermont Business Growth Awards](#)

September 25 [VT Technology Alliance - Let's Tech Together](#)

September 27 & 28 [Champlain Maker Faire](#)

September 30 [Application Deadline-Windham Grows Farm Business Accelerator](#)

October 17 [Reconciled's Entrepreneur Summit](#)

October 17 [Vermont Tech Jam](#)

October 19 [Women's Economic Opportunity Conference](#)

Briefly Noted

[Ogee Introduces Liquid Gold Cleansing Oil](#)

[Mamava's 10 Best U.S. Airports for Breastfeeding Moms](#)

[SunCommon Installs Orange County, NY's First Community Solar Array](#)

[DrinkSimple Completes Rebranding With New Labeling & Website](#)

[DRIVEN: The Northeast's New Biomedical Accelerator Hub](#)

[Greensboro Makerspace 'Sparks' Innovation in NEK](#)

Upcoming Events

November 12 [Introducing the DRIVEN Accelerator Hub](#)

November 15 [Windham Grows Community Table](#)

December 5 [BYP Meet-up at VCET](#)

About FreshTracks Capital: Founded in 2001, FreshTracks Capital is a Vermont-focused investment fund that uses venture capital to create positive economic and community impacts. Across its five funds, which total more than \$50 million, FreshTracks has invested in more than 30 Vermont-based companies. Portfolio company information can be found at: [FreshTracks Portfolio](#). FreshTracks hosts a number of events for entrepreneurs and investors, including Peak Pitch and Road Pitch. The firm's General Partners and Managing Directors are Cairn Cross, Lee Bouyea and T.J. Whalen. FreshTracks is actively investing out of its most recent fund, FreshTracks Capital IV.



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