



Vermont Has a New Kind of CUD

As a state where dairying is still important, you probably know that cows need to “chew their cud” to digest food. It helps break down tough plant stalks.

The new CUDs in town are technological: Communications Union Districts. They are home grown groups of towns working together to build high-speed fiber optic internet to locations that don't have internet access or where service is poor.

East Central Vermont Fiber (ECFiber) created the first model in 2008 as a grassroots community network. It worked. The Vermont legislature created an official state-wide structure for towns to join together in 2015, and the reason is simple. Commercial internet companies focus on cities and town centers with lots of customers close together where profits are certain. CUDs will go where the private companies won't: down the dirt roads, up the mountain hollows, and out to the farms and camps that get passed over because connecting them costs more than a company wants to spend.

Is this a local tax-based effort? State law prohibits using state or local tax dollars

for communication infrastructure. Instead, CUDs raise money through grants, loans, and bonds, and the monthly subscriptions for service.

Who runs CUDs? There are telecommunications professionals, of course. But CUDs have governing boards appointed by the member towns themselves who help guide policy decisions. The focus stays in our communities instead of a distant company's boardroom.

Vermont created the CUD model as its own solution to a critical

problem. NEK Broadband and CV Fiber are our region's version of that model, working road by road across the Northeast Kingdom and Central Vermont, bringing reliable internet to unserved and underserved areas.

NEKCV's board has committed to hiring lo-



- Courtesy Photo.

cally, using businesses with local ties, and reinvesting profits back into the network or into affordability once it's built. When decisions stay close to home, so do the benefits.

Written by Cayden Clark, Marketing Intern at NEKCV. Learn more at <https://nekcv.org/>

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Sept. **Specials of the Week**

TUES. 29: Chicken Biscuit with Gravy, Mashed Potato, Cranberry & Coleslaw

WED. 30: Ziti with Sausage, Side Salad, Bread & Butter

Oct. **THURS. 1:** Hot Roast Beef Sandwich with Gravy, Fries & Veggie

FRI. 2: Fried Haddock with Fries & Coleslaw

HELP WANTED
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HOURS: Tuesday-Saturday 6AM-6PM
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CLIP & SAVE

Restaurant Guide

RESTAURANT	CUISINE	SERVING	LOCATION	PHONE
CIDER HOUSE CAFE AT WINDY RIDGE ORCHARD	Delicious Sandwiches, Cider Donuts, Apple Crisp, Pie	MON-SUN 10 AM - 3PM	N. Haverhill, NH	603-728-9325
HATCHLAND FARM WICKED GOOD DAIRY DELITES	Ice Cream Lunch Counter Grab 'N Go Cooler	ICE CREAM WINDOW: SUN-THURS 11AM-7PM FRI-SAT 11AM-8PM	N. Haverhill, NH	603-787-6077
HUNGRY BEAR PUB & GRILL	Best Pub Fare Around	MON-SUN 11AM-9PM	Bradford, VT	802-222-5288
INDIAN CORN MILL AKA THE APPLE SHACK	Cider Donuts, Homemade Pies	MON-SAT 9AM-5PM SUN 10AM-4PM	N. Haverhill, NH	603-243-0311
RAE'S CORNER CAFE	Good Local Food	MON-FRI 8AM-3PM	Bradford, VT	802-449-3005
UPPER VALLEY GRILL	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner	MON-SAT 6AM-6PM SUN 7AM-4PM	Groton, VT	802-584-3101

HUNGRY? Check out our guide to the best food the area has to offer!

CLIP & SAVE