

October 6, 2026

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STAFF COUNCIL NEWS

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 10/6/26 from 12:05-1:30**

HR Leadership will be presenting

All members of the UVM community are welcome.

The meeting is offered in-person at the Davis Center - Chittenden Bank Room and via [Teams](#).

Meeting agendas, minutes, and video recordings are also available [on our website](#).



Message From Jennifer Jorgenson

As we begin a new academic year, I am honored to continue serving as your Staff Council President and representing staff voices from across campus. This year is especially meaningful to me as it marks, not only the 55th year of Staff Council but also my final academic year in this role. I want to express my sincere appreciation for the opportunity to advocate on behalf of our staff community and to bring your perspectives, concerns, ideas, and aspirations into conversations with university leadership.

Staff Council plays an important role in fostering communication, collaboration, and advocacy across the institution. In meetings with university leaders, I am committed to representing staff to the best of my ability and ensuring that staff voices remain a vital part of university planning and decision-making.

I encourage all staff members to attend a future Staff Council meeting. Our meetings are open to everyone and can be attended either in person or virtually. Even if you are unable to join us, meeting notes are available on our website, providing access to the rich information and discussions shared during each session. [Link To Meeting Details](#)

- Staff Council offers many opportunities to connect with colleagues, learn about university initiatives, collaborate on shared priorities, and contribute to meaningful advocacy efforts. This work happens through our Full Staff Council and our four committees:
- **Personal and Professional Development, Occupational Environment Committee**
 - **Social Committee**
 - **Community Engagement Committee**
 - **Compensation, Benefits and Budget Committee** (for non-represented staff)

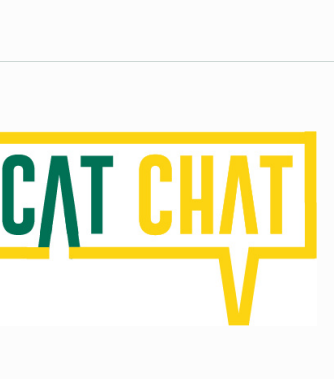
One of the most valuable aspects of our meetings is the opportunity to hear directly from university leaders. Leaders regularly join Full Staff Council meetings to share updates, discuss upcoming initiatives and programming, provide information about organizational changes, and seek staff input to help inform planning and decision-making.

Whether you attend a meeting, participate on a committee, review meeting notes, or share feedback with your council representatives, your engagement strengthens our collective voice. I hope you will take advantage of these opportunities throughout the year, and I look forward to continuing our work together in support of a connected, informed, and engaged staff community.

Thank you for all that you do for our university and for the many ways you contribute to making our campus a welcoming and vibrant place to work.

Jennifer Jorgenson

Staff Council President



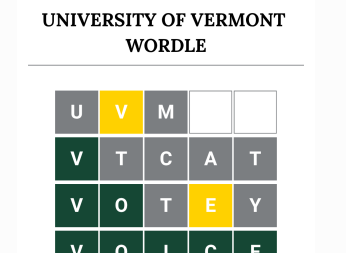
Holiday Bazaar Call For Vendors

Yup, it's that time as we put out a call for vendors for the Social Committee Annual Holiday Bazaar taking place December 2, 2026 from 9am - 2pm at the Davis Center.

Who can apply to be a vendor?

Those with a direct UVM affiliation as Staff, Faculty, Students, Alumni, and Retirees are eligible to apply to reserve up to 2, 6ft x 2ft. tables for the Holiday Bazaar. Non-UVM affiliated vendors will also be able to apply to reserve tables, but UVM affiliates will be given priority. **All applications must be submitted by 4pm Friday, October 9th.**

[Click Here](#) for more details and to submit an application.



CatChat - 9/5/26

Facilitated by UVM Staff Council, Personal & Professional Development Committee, UVM staff share **10-minute tales of passion that have enriched their lives**.

- **Olivia Hunt** - The Long Trail: You are more capable than you think
- **Tiera Porter** - The Hardest Goodbye, The Most Worthwhile Hello. Our Dog Fostering Experience.
- **Thomas Carlson** - How to Play Board Games and Influence People

[Details Found Here](#)

We are happy to be offering this in a Hybrid format as well as recording the event.



55th Anniversary Wordle Contest

Staff Council 55th Anniversary Wordle Challenge

As we celebrate 55 years of Staff Council, we're inviting employees throughout the UVM community to test their word-solving skills and join a little friendly competition. Each Wordle features a five-letter word inspired by appreciation, connection, collaboration, and the values that guide our work. Whether you're a Wordle expert or trying it for the first time, we hope you'll play along and have fun!

Congratulations to **Ken Bechtel** from **Department of Social Work**, our 9/17/26 UVM Wordle Challenge winner! Ken solved the puzzle in **two** guesses and was randomly selected from this round's top performers. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Play this issue's Wordle: [10.6.2026 Wordle](#)
After you complete the puzzle, submit your results here: [Staff Council Wordle - Fill Out Form](#). **If you have played before, the form may auto populate prior answers. The is an "Edit Response" button to use to clear older responses.**

Participants will be recognized in future *Staffline* issues, and we'll be tracking results throughout the semester to build our Staff Council Wordle Hall of Winners.



The application period for FY27Q2 is now open .

All non-represented staff are eligible to apply.
[Eligibility Information & Application \(PDF\)](#)
[Rubric \(PDF\)](#)
[Flyer \(PDF\)](#)

Q2 Deadline is November 30th!



Events - All Invited

- Staff Council Community Engagement Book Club 10/8/26 - [Click For Details](#)
- CatChat 11/5/26 - [Click For Details](#)
- Reduced Price Tickets for Lyric Theater **Elf The Musical** on 11/14/26. Just 7 seats remaining - [Click Here To Purchase](#).
- Annual Holiday Bazaar 12/2/26 - [Click For Details](#)
- Reduced Price Tickets for Lyric Theater **Cinderella** on 4/10/27 - [Click Here To Purchase](#).
- Monthly Crafting Group - [Click For Details](#)
- Wednesday Campus Walks - [Click For Details](#)

[Link To All Events Calendar](#)

CAMPUS NEWS



Employee Benefits and Wellness Fair - 10/22 8AM - 3:30pm

This day-long event is the annual opportunity for Employees to explore wellness resources, activities, and experiences from UVM's internal partners, community vendors, and benefit providers. This space offers the opportunity to connect with colleagues, explore your wellbeing, and collect some fun give aways and enter raffles!

UVM Benefits and HR teams will be on hand to answer questions and guide you to the information needed to make an informed decision about electing your benefits. Benefit vendors representing each service available to UVM Employees will be on hand to answer questions and provide guidance. Open Enrollment for 2027 Benefits will begin Monday, October 26 and close Friday, November 13th. Come to the fair to learn and find support in making decisions about your benefits, health, and wellness.

[Click For More Details](#)



Staff Appreciation

This academic year, the university is taking a new approach to celebrating staff by shifting from staff appreciation being limited to a single week to offering appreciation and engagement opportunities throughout the year. By hosting events in the fall, winter, and spring, we hope to make participation more accessible for staff with varying work schedules, responsibilities, and hybrid arrangements. Planning events well in advance also gives staff the opportunity to save the dates and include them on their calendars. **The next event is planned for January of 2027, shortly after return from break, "Winter Warm Up."** Details to come.

- [Staff Appreciation Website](#)
- [Ice Cream Social Gallery From 9/30/26](#)



UVM Research Studies Seeking Volunteers

- [Vaccine Research Study](#)
- [Evolution of lung disease ages 25 - 35](#)

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT



Thrive Away From Campus

Human Resources is proud to announce a new Professional Development series for employees who work remotely, at a location off of UVM's main campus, or in a hybrid setting.

Working off-campus presents unique opportunities and challenges. Building relationships, staying informed, communicating effectively, managing competing priorities, and ensuring others understand your contributions often require additional intention when colleagues are not all in the same place.

Through four interactive webinars, participants will explore practical strategies for staying connected, visible, and effective, regardless of where they work.

[Click For Details](#)



UVM Professional and Continuing Education

Whether you've taken a course with us before or simply reached out to learn more, you already know that UVM Professional and Continuing Education offers focused, practical courses built for working professionals.

Not sure which program is right for you? Our advisors are available to help you think it through — **no pressure, just honest guidance**. Please reach out via email at learn@uvm.edu or [Live Chat with an enrollment coach](#) Monday - Friday between 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. EST or give them a call at 802-656-2085. Monday - Friday schedule a 15-minute virtual chat to discuss how these certificates can help you advance in your career.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES



Cultural Resource Guide - Live

Got a job or admissions letter that is bringing you to (or keeping you in!) the area? We know there's a lot more to setting up or maintaining your home here. From housing to compost laws to childcare, find what you need to live your best life.

[Click Here For Details](#)



[Meetings](#) [Get Involved](#) [Resources](#) [Inside UVM](#)



Staff Council - serving as a voice and advocate for all staff at UVM since 1971

staff_council@uvm.edu | (802) 656-4493

85 S. Prospect Street | 313 Waterman Building | Burlington, VT 05405

Hours: In-Person M, T, W 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM, Remote Th, Fri 8:30AM - 4PM

<https://www.uvm.edu/staffcouncil>

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Staff Council