

# The Monadnock SHOPPER NEWS

The Original Keene Shopper – “The Weekly with a Heart” – 59th Year of Community Service / June 28-July 4, 2017

## Bitcoin: An Innovative And New Kind Of Currency Through Technology



Colleen Fordham of Route 101 Local Goods in Keene offers the only Bitcoin Vending Machine in the area.

By Lori Catozzi Cook

According to [www.CoinMap.org](http://www.CoinMap.org), Keene has more Bitcoin-accepting businesses per capita than San Francisco! Bitcoin is a fairly new cryptocurrency (digital currency) created in 2009 that is becoming a successful way to purchase and sell in the Monadnock Region due to its uniqueness.

“While the dollar is worth less than a year ago, the Bitcoin is worth seven times what it was a year ago!” says Chris Rietmann of Route 101 Local Goods in Keene, whose store also has the region’s only Bitcoin Vending Machine. “It also can’t be manipulated by banks.”

This “Internet money” uses a blockchain software transaction database as its online ledger. It operates with no central authority, banks, or middleman, which makes for cleaner transactions for both the Bitcoin user and for businesses. Instead, Bitcoin is managed through a “mining” process – a network that verifies transactions.

“We began accepting Bitcoin about one year ago,” says Edward Forster, owner of Little Zoe’s Take and Bake in Keene. “After researching the technology and discovering what blockchain was, I realized that regardless of what form or name it took, this was going to be the future of secure funds transfers. The infrastructure to accept and exchange Bitcoin is available to anyone who knows how to use an iPhone or any tablet; more companies are accepting it every day. Currently, the valuation is growing and will continue to grow as more people use the system.”

There are many positives to buying and trading with Bitcoin, including: the likelihood that it will increase in value, more area businesses are now accepting Bitcoin, many countries and websites trade

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## Independents Week: Think Independently And Act Locally

By Jen Risley

“Changing the way our economy operates starts with a single person. It starts with you.” Michelle Long, Business Alliance for Local Living Economies

Monadnock Buy Local invites you to celebrate Independents Week from July 1st to July 7th. Independents Week is a time to think independently and act locally – to change the way our economy works and shape the future of the Monadnock Region. It’s also a time to acknowledge the vital connection be-

tween independent businesses and the health and wealth of our community.

Please take some time next week to reach out to at least one independent business owner you know. Thank them for their spirit of entrepreneurship, individuality, and character; the way they give back to our community with their time, talent, goods, and services; and how their offerings fulfill your needs.

Here are some other ways to embrace Independents Week:

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## Children’s Games At The Horatio Colony Museum Thursday, July 6th



Teya Bryan plays with a hoop on the lawn at The Horatio Colony House Museum. (Photo by Nancy Belluscio)

## The Heroin Effect To Screen In Keene And Peterborough

New Hampshire-Based Documentary On The Unprecedented Heroin Crisis

Locally produced and starring local people, Michael Venn’s documentary film, *The Heroin Effect*, is scheduled for two free screenings, Thursday, June 29th at Keene State College’s Redfern Arts Theater and Monday, July 10th at the Peterborough Community Theater.

The film, which sold out in both Portsmouth and Concord, depicts a two-year period of covering personal stories around the opioid epidemic. But the director has stated, “It’s a different take on it. It’s not about the problem; it’s about the solution.”

After both 6:30 p.m. screenings, there will be a question-and-answer segment with the filmmakers, subjects of the film, and local treatment specialists.

Natalie Neilson, continuum of care facilitator of Monadnock Voices for Prevention, is facilitating the screenings and encourages anyone interested in understanding the epidemic and knowing where

the State of New Hampshire is headed to attend the event. “This film is a beautiful demonstration of what we can achieve if we bring people together, especially around an issue that has struck the hearts of so many in our communities,” she said. “The better we understand how we got to this point and listen to those with lived experience, the more we learn about what needs to change.”

Monadnock Voices for Prevention is a Healthy Monadnock Partner working to increase the regional capacity to prevent substance misuse.

To reserve tickets, visit <https://heroineffect-keene.eventbrite.com> for the Redfern Arts Center and <https://heroineffectpeterborough.eventbrite.com> for the Peterborough Community Theater. For more details, contact Neilson at 603-354-5454, Ext. 2378 or [nneilson@cheshire-med.com](mailto:nneilson@cheshire-med.com).

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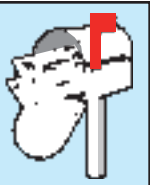
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**40,027**  
Mailed Weekly  
Mailed Into Every Home In Keene And 36 Area Towns  
Total Circulation 42,750



# Bitcoin: An Innovative And New Kind Of Currency Through Technology

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in Bitcoin (they are not tied to any country or subject to regulation), and there isn't any type of taxation system with Bitcoin. And, unless users publicize their addresses from their wallets (where Bitcoins are saved), no one can trace transactions back to them. Also, the owner of the wallet is the only one who can make any changes with his or her private "key," so there isn't any risk involved when receiving Bitcoin.

"Kirby's Q has been accepting Bitcoin as a method of payment since we opened on November 12, 2016," says owner of the Alstead restaurant, Ken Urbanski. "As a business owner who

strives to meet the needs and expectations of my customers, I believe it a necessary element of running my business. Nothing but positive experiences – both from those who utilize it as a method of payment and the simplicity of the instant deposit to the business bank account. I would very much like to see its continued growth as a digital currency, as it makes for cleaner transactions and is less susceptible to inflationary pressures."

A plus for businesses who take Bitcoin, is that there aren't any transaction fees to receive it, Bitcoin is easy to set up, there are no charge backs, deposits

into the business account tend to be quicker than a bank, and establishments that use Bitcoin are a draw for those who pay with Bitcoin – more sales for businesses. "Bitcoin is still a bit of a novelty," adds Rietmann. "So you'll also find people shopping at your business because you accept Bitcoin."

Bitcoin is as easy as sending an email. A wallet can be kept online, on an iPhone or Android device, or on hardware and hard drives. Bitcoin has no physical representation. Instead, the convenience of a QR code on a person's mobile device is used at the point-of-sale. The recipient, or merchant, displays his QR code and the person paying then scans his QR code over the merchants. During this process, Bitcoin addresses are exchanged to complete the transaction. All information is secure; there are no credit card numbers that a malicious person can collect in order to impersonate you.

People can purchase Bitcoin through an exchange account that they set up with an existing bank account. Cash can also be exchanged for Bitcoin by using a Bitcoin ATM machine. Insert the cash into the ATM and then scan your mobile wallet QR code; it's that easy.

Other Monadnock Region businesses that take Bitcoin include: Local Burger, Wilder Automotive, Moda Suo, Infinite Twilight Designs, ThinkPenguin, Liberty



Chris Rietmann and Colleen Fordham, owners of Route 101 Local Goods in Keene, are showing how easy it is to make a transaction using Bitcoin.

Lobby, Free Press Publications, Zen Art Putt & Play, Make It So: The Monadnock Makerspace, LRN.FM, Free Talk Live, Bon Vivant Gourmet Street Food, and Corner News in Keene; Quality Computer Service in Alstead; Crossroad Pizza in Fitzwilliam; Carroll Garden Center in Marlborough; Antrim Graphics in Antrim; Flow Brazilian Jiu Jitsu in Swanzey; and Pine Grove Springs Golf Course in Spofford.

For those wanting to learn more about Bitcoin, or for those who are experienced users and want to connect with a local network, visit the Keene Bitcoin Network at keene.bitcoin.com.



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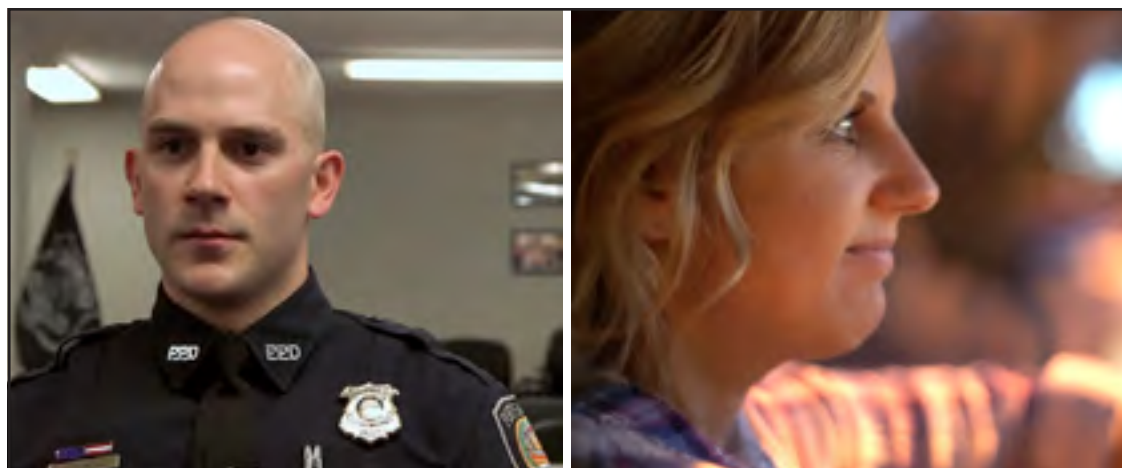
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**SCREENING: THU., JUNE 29 • 6:30PM • FREE**

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RSVP online: [HeroinEffectKeene.Eventbrite.com](http://HeroinEffectKeene.Eventbrite.com)

For more information: contact Natalie Neilson [NNeilson@cheshire-med.com](mailto:NNeilson@cheshire-med.com)



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