



The Monadnock

SHOPPER NEWS

The Original Keene Shopper – “The Weekly with a Heart” – 59th Year of Community Service /October 24-30, 2018

Bitcoin Embassy Opens In Keene

Cryptocurrency Thriving In The Region



Chris Rietmann gives a Bitcoin 101 Class at Bitcoin Embassy New Hampshire in the Route 101 Local Goods at 661 Marlboro Street in Keene.

“I have control, for the first time, in my financial situation,” says Chris Rietmann, owner of Route 101 Local Goods at 661 Marlboro Street in Keene.

Bitcoin is “cryptocurrency” that uses a public ledger called a blockchain to track transactions. Blockchain is a way of storing data so that if there were any attempt to make a change it would be immediately detected and then ignored or discarded. It is managed through a network that verifies transactions, aka “mining” process.

Cryptocurrency like Bitcoin is easy and accessible for everyone. A mobile wallet – through a phone app – is the most common method. Cryptocurrency wallet software is also available for Windows, Mac, and Linux desktop or laptop operating systems. To get more security for your wallet, it’s even possible to have a printed paper wallet or a hardware wallet that you can keep in a secure location. There is a small learning curve with cryptocurrency but thankfully we now have the Bitcoin Embassy to help.

Route 101 Local Goods not only accepts Bitcoin transactions, but Rietmann is also the Executive Director of Bitcoin Embassy New Hampshire, which has a room inside the locally owned and operated store. Bitcoin Embassy New Hampshire houses a crypto vending machine; crypto gear, books, and other merchandise; and a meeting room. The atmosphere here is one of teaching, sharing, and mutual inspiration.

There is a lot of technical jargon that might overwhelm people when someone tries to explain Bitcoin. So Bitcoin Embassy New Hampshire now offers Bitcoin 101 classes that will help the newbie understand cryptocurrency and how it works. There are classes for individuals as well as for businesses; these are “pay what you can afford” workshops. To learn more about upcoming classes, seminars, and presentations, or to register, visit www.bitNH.me or the Bitcoin Embassy New Hampshire’s Facebook page.

Keene was New Hampshire’s first Bitcoin outpost when Corner News on Main Street accepted Bitcoin in 2013. Five years later and businesses all over Keene – and the Monadnock Region – are now buying and selling using cryptocurrency.

“Bitcoin is not dead,” adds Rietmann.

These are some of the many Monadnock Region businesses that take Bitcoin: Hot Hogs BBQ; Local Burger; Corner News; Thirsty Owl; Branch and Blade Brewing; Make It So: The Monadnock Makerspace; Curry Indian Restaurant; Kirby’s Q; Little Zoe’s Pizza; Flow Jiu Jitsu; Pine Grove Springs Golf Course; Wilder Automotive; Dr. Sean Drower, DMD; Moda Suo Salon; and many more businesses.

By Lori Catozzi Cook

Bitcoin can be used in the Monadnock region to purchase a gift, buy lunch or drinks, play a round of golf, repair your car, and even for dentistry. Bitcoin means financial freedom and empowerment, because using Bitcoin and other cryptocurrency allows people to be in control and responsible for their own money – no manipulation from banks and no middleman. This form of digital currency is becoming a desirable way to buy or sell products, as the transactions are clean, secure, and private.