

# Burlington Legacy Project



Launched in 1999 as a community planning initiative to guide Burlington's future, the Legacy Project gathered ideas from more than a thousand city residents and created a comprehensive action plan for the economic, environmental, and social health of the city. Legacy connects diverse initiatives in the city, identifies key priorities, raises awareness on sustainability, and creates a comprehensive plan to guide the economic, environmental, and social health of Burlington for years to come. Wanda Hines and Jennifer Green serve as Legacy's co-coordinators.

Community stakeholders, including the United Way, UVM, Fletcher Allen, Burlington Business Association, the Burlington Public Schools, Champlain College, Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce, other organizations, and City Departments are represented on the Legacy Steering Committee.

Highlights of the past year include:

## **Creating a Vibrant Urban Center**

In addition to promoting the Burlington Branding Toolkits, two Legacy partners — the Chamber and the Burlington Business Association — launched a cooperative advertising campaign in Montreal newspapers promoting travel to Burlington. The BBA and Chamber also continue to work with the Burlington International Airport to expand air service to Burlington.

## **Economic Security**

The United Way initiated the "Working Bridges Project" in partnership with the CASH Coalition of Chittenden County and several local employers. This work included developing innovative employee benefit practices to assist low-wage workers, including an emergency financial loan program and on-site resource coordinator.

Fletcher Allen Health Care worked with the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program and the Vermont Children's Hospital to establish a refugee clinic, open 2 days a week and serving 400 children annually, regardless of insurance.

## **Social Equity**

Legacy continued to work on city and school employment practices and on other opportunities for economic and social ad-

vancement for ethnically and culturally diverse populations. The mission of Legacy's Social Equity Investment Project (SEIP) is to identify and support leadership that can collaborate and help facilitate sustainable and effective social change.

UVM established a diversity curriculum to increase the multi-cultural competency of all division staff. ALANA's Summer Enrichment Scholarship Program, a free summer bridge program, was offered to first year incoming-students of color and bi/multi-racial students.

The SEIP, in partnership with the Snelling Institute, created the Social Equity Scholarship Fund. The kick off event included a luncheon with over 40 community leaders.



## **Economic Self-Reliance**

Burlington Electric Department continued to offer staff the opportunity to acquire the skills and experience necessary to become a qualified electric utility line-worker while receiving a degree in electrical technology through an accredited on-line program.

Fletcher Allen welcomed dozens of "Junior Volunteers" to its facility over summer 2008. This program offered Burlington youth important skills and training for those interested in exploring the medical and health professions.

## **Transportation**

UVM, Champlain College, the City and others partnered to support the creation of non-profit Car Share Vermont, a transportation alternative with a mission to "provide an affordable, convenient, and reliable alternative to private car ownership that enhances the environmental, economic, and social wellbeing of our region and plant."



*City of Burlington, Vermont*

## **Burlington Legacy Project** continued

Fletcher Allen promoted alternative forms of transportation to employees through its work with the Campus Area Transportation Management Association (CATMA). Currently, more than half of FAHC employees carpool, walk, take the bus, or walk to work – up from approximately 30% five years ago.

### **Our Schools**

The Burlington School District (BSD), with substantial input and participation from the community, worked during 2007-08 to develop a long-range, strategic and comprehensive plan for renovation of Burlington's nine public schools over the next ten years, with the goal of ensuring an excellent public school system that attracts families to Burlington and develops a workforce for the 21st century. Legacy participated on the BSD Vision and Master Plan Steering Committee.

Burlington Schools Foods Project, a joint effort between the Burlington Schools, Shelburne Farms, VT FEED, Healthy City, the Sustainable Schools Project and Legacy continued its support of local food systems and providing healthy local food in school cafeterias. During this past 2007 harvest season, the food service purchased 15,000 pounds of local food for the school meals of 3,800 students.

### **Civic and Community Engagement**

Legacy, in conjunction with the Center for Community and Neighborhoods, involved hundreds of people through a variety of outreach activities and community events, including the Neighborhood Night of Success, Green Up! Day events and activities, Martin Luther King Day, and the Annual Legacy Town Meeting.

A key goal of the Legacy vision is empowering youth to participate in decisions that affect their city and neighborhoods. Legacy continues to implement the Youth on Boards program to connect Burlington teens 15-17 years old to serve on City of Burlington boards and commissions.

The Social Equity Advisory Committee under the auspices of Legacy's SEIP works to involve the community in bringing leadership, insight and direction on social equity issues.

### **Environmental Health**

Legacy continues working toward changes in the existing anti-idling ordinance as a means to improve public health and Burlington's air quality. Legacy worked in conjunction with volunteers from the Police Department to launch a public outreach and education campaign about idling.

Legacy started the process of re-writing the City's Climate Action Plan. This effort, in collaboration with Planning and Zoning, has involved the input of dozens of citizens, every City Department, and members of the non-profit and business sector to meet Burlington's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 to 20% below 2007 levels. Legacy also staffs the Mayor's Energy and Environment Coordinating Committee (E2C2), a working group composed of City staff, non-profit and public sector entities. This year, the E2C2 devised a list of recommendations on how the City can reduce its GHG emissions with changes in transportation policy and infrastructure.

Legacy worked with the Mayor's Office to create a municipal team, the Burlington Sustainability Action Team, charged with guiding energy efficiency and waste reduction efforts in Government operations.

Legacy, with UVM, BED, and non-profit and business leaders, launched the Kitchen Table Collaborative (<http://kitchentablecollaborative.org/>), a program designed to reduce GHG emissions and save energy at the household level. Mayor Kiss made a commitment to involve his own household and neighborhood, forming an "EcoTeam."

Legacy continues to staff the Burlington Food Council, a coordinating body for community members and organizations concerned with local food production, nutrition, and the health of children and their families. Fletcher Allen Health Care received the nationally recognized Green Health Award for its purchase and use of local food.

The Food Council hosted the first annual Junior Iron Chef Competition in April 2008, involving over 30 student teams from around the state to conceptualize and create their own unique dishes made from local produce. The success of this event has led to plans for a Second Junior Iron Chef competition.

# Burlington International Airport

The fiscal year ending June 30, 2008 was a terrific one for your airport despite a backdrop of mostly bad news from the airline industry nationally. Business, measured on the basis of passengers leaving from Burlington, was up 4% through the end of the fiscal year. The prospects for FY09 are bright with the addition of air service from



AirTran Airways to the Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI). BWI is a hub for AirTran and Southwest and also serves the popular Washington, D.C. market. The first 3 months of the new fiscal year are showing double-digit increases in passengers which translates into increased revenue for the airport. Each departing passenger represents an average of \$18.00 to the airport and the added air service results in increases in terminal rent and landing fees.

With the cost of oil affecting the U.S. economy and air service we have made a more aggressive move toward attracting Canadian passengers. It appears that this is working and surveys this fall and winter will tell us more about our passenger base. Our best estimates are that up to 40% of our base business is from the province of Quebec.

Due to the increase in flight operations, including an enhanced Vermont Air Na-

tional Guard presence, we have added positions and state-of-the-art equipment to our snow removal capability. Last winter was extremely expensive in terms of fuel, deicing material and overtime as many storms lasted multiple days and consisted of both snow and ice. We will be better equipped to deal with winter maintenance this year.

The next year will bring new plans for added parking spaces, improved bus service from Quebec directly to the airport, taxi system improvements and continued development of the south end business park. We will also increase our efforts to develop air service to Boston after regular Boston service was lost with the demise of Big Sky airlines this past year.

Continued thanks are due to the administration of Mayor Bob Kiss and the City Council for their support of the airport. The Board of Airport Commissioners has been actively engaged in the often difficult job of managing the growth of the airport and continues to seek input from the public on how the airport can serve you better. Be sure to visit our web site at [www.btv.aero](http://www.btv.aero).



**Brian R. Searles**  
Director of  
Aviation





*City of Burlington, Vermont*  
**Burlington City Arts**



**Doreen Kraft**  
 Director

Burlington City Arts fuses a dynamic relationship between art and community for the Greater Burlington area. Since BCA's inception as an all-volunteer organization in 1981, Burlington has grown to being of America's "10 Hippest Art Towns", "one of the most livable cities for the arts" and one of the top 25 small city arts destinations. For the 6th year in a row, The Firehouse Gallery was named the "Best Art Gallery" by the readers of Seven Days. Most notably in 2008, BCA was awarded an Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts Grant for exhibitions in the Firehouse Gallery. This award has placed the Firehouse Gallery in a national arena of respected art institutions dedicated to innovative artistic expression and the creative process. BCA has a supportive and engaged Board of Directors which is instrumental in guiding its work.

BCA is a uniquely positioned City department, fundraising for 85% of its operating budget as a non-profit organization. This structure affords flexibility for collaboration with other city departments and an intimate relationship between arts and economic growth, while also encouraging voluntary financial support from residents of outlying towns who benefit from the cultural services BCA fosters. With an annual budget of \$1 million and a staff of 20, BCA runs the Firehouse Gallery and a number of education programs within the Firehouse Center for the Visual Arts, in our studios at Memorial Auditorium, and in several community-based sites. The Firehouse has become an important venue for collaboration between BCA and our many partners, from educational institutions to businesses and social services. Our mission is to fuse a dynamic relationship between the arts and community, to nurture creativity and imagination, and to ignite a passion for learning through the arts.



### **Exhibitions/Education**

After a year in transition, the Firehouse Gallery welcomed new curator Chris Thompson to the helm. Chris is the recipient of numerous awards for his work, including two grants from the Vermont Arts Council and the Vermont Community Foundation. As a guest curator at the Firehouse Gallery for *Decked Out* in 2007, Chris showed his ability to unfold a love for contemporary art in those who least expect it, and at the same time develop an appreciation for the talents of an underground creative culture to the general public. The Gallery Education program, *See-Think-Do*, advanced into its second year, surpassing expectations by bringing 750 young people through the gallery for in-depth, engaged discussion and creation of artwork. The *Seven Below Arts Initiative*, established to foster artistic development and support arts education in partnership with *Seven Below*, administered its second annual session of the *Artist-in-Residence* program at the *Barn* in Westford. Artists who lived and worked at the *Barn* created everything from paintings and drawings to videos and visual journals of senior citizens, while developing relationships with each other and BCA staff.

### **Events**

As Firehouse programming solidifies, BCA's role as cultural planner for the City of Burlington has kicked into high gear. Our collaboration with the *Point FM* brought several free hit concerts to *Battery Park*, including young British sensations *Back Door Slam* and American singer-songwriter *Tift Merrit*. People came out by the thousands to enjoy this 27-year old Thursday evening Burlington tradition. We also piloted the first curated outdoor festival of street theater, circus arts, music and comedy for family audiences. The three-day festival featured the best international street performers from around the globe on the *Church Street Marketplace* and *City Hall Park*. As we look forward toward 2009, BCA has set in motion a major event on Burlington's waterfront that marks the 400th anniversary of *Samuel de Champlain's* arrival to the region. BCA hired noted Vermont filmmaker and arts activist *Jay Craven* to produce the *Celebrate Champlain* festivities in Burlington, scheduled for July 2-14, 2009.





*City of Burlington, Vermont*  
**Assessor's Office**



**John  
Vickery**

City Assessor

The mission of the City Assessor's Office is to establish equitable values for all taxable real estate and business personal property located in Burlington. The Assessor's Office is responsible for the administration of 10,268 taxable real estate parcels, 440 non-tax real estate parcels and 831 business personal property accounts. The appraised values are the basis for the distribution of the City's annual property tax levy. Property appraised values are based on an estimation of fair market value. The Assessor's office employs guidelines for insuring fair appraisals for all property owners throughout the City. The guidelines are as follows:

- Review all sales transactions. This year there were a total of 959 property transactions, which is slightly down from 1,039 in FY07 and 1,137 in FY06.
- Establish fair appraised values based on the City-wide reappraisal date of April 1, 2005.
- Measure the relationship between the real estate market and current tax appraised values. Burlington's overall equalization rate is 89% which is only slightly higher than the FY07 equalization rate of 88% and 90% in FY2006. This is an indication of a stabilized real estate market.
- Conduct property valuation tax appeals.
  - The Board of Assessors held 114 real estate property hearings and 13 business personal property appeal hearings from May 21 through June 7.
  - 29 Property appeals will be held before the Board of Tax Appeals in October.

Each year the Assessor's Office reviews changes to individual properties and determines what if any effect these changes have upon the property's fair market value and tax assessment. It is the policy of the Assessor's Office to conduct an interior and exterior inspection when visiting a property under review. A thorough property inspection is the fairest way to help estimate the property's value. This past year the Assessor's Office reviewed all permits issued by the Department of Public Works and the

Planning and Zoning Department, performed inspections for permits indicating substantial change, and as a result changed the assessments of 367 real properties. These changes produced real estate growth to the Grand List in the amount of \$18,807,406.

Burlington requires all businesses to return a completed business personal property asset report for the business tax each year. This annual form is due by April 20. The total appraised value of the Business Personal Property (machinery and equipment) is \$131,923,128. This is an increase of \$12,858,848 from the previous fiscal year. Growth in Grand List value helps offset or prevent increases in the tax rate.

The Assessor's Office provides information to taxpayers, real estate appraisers, attorneys, brokers, the Vermont Department of Taxes and the public. Property data information is available on two public computers at the Assessor's Office and on the Assessor's website. The website has useful information such as: the City's Grand List, property record information, appeal procedures, contact information and various forms. The Assessor's site can be accessed through the City's homepage at [www.ci.burlington.vt.us](http://www.ci.burlington.vt.us).

The Assessor's office also monitors real estate activity in Burlington. This past year our office estimated 524 fair market sale transactions. There were fewer fair market sales in fiscal year 2008 than in any of the past four fiscal years; with 2007 having 536 sales, 2006 having 606 sales, 2005 having 583 sales, and 2004 having 641 sales. Overall, single family home and condominium real estate values appear to be stable.

**Office of the City Attorney**

The following are selected cases and highlighted issues from the past year:

### **The Moran Center at Waterfront Park**

On October 28, 2008, Memorandums of Understanding were executed with the three proposed tenants for the Moran redevelopment project, Ice Factor, the Community Sailing Center and the Green Mountain Children's Museum. The City's plan is to redevelop the Moran Plant and site to include an indoor ice and rock climbing facility, a children's museum, outdoor ice skating rink, splash water park, public park, café and restaurant, and retention of the Sailing Center. The project work plan also results in significant improvements at and near the site, including upgrades to the bike path, road surfaces, and pedestrian walkways. An Architectural and Engineering contract was drafted and executed with Freeman, French, Freeman Inc. for the first phase of the project, which will provide more detailed and reliable cost estimates for the plan.

### **Westlake Settlement Agreement and new Hotel Ground Lease**

The Westlake project consisted of 4 basic elements: Westlake Residential Condominiums, a 127-room hotel, the "Lofts" (mixed-use, residential and office), and public parking. All of the elements have been built except for the Lofts portion of the project, which included seven affordable housing units. When it became clear that the Lofts developer was not going to construct the building in a timely manner, the City and the developer entered into settlement negotiations. A Settlement Agreement was reached and approved by the City Council on February 19, 2008, providing that the Developer would pay the City \$371,000 in lieu of constructing the seven units of affordable housing, \$28,750 to cover City enforcement costs and the City would obtain site control of the property.

On May 30, 2008, the Development Review Board approved the in lieu payment to address the inclusionary zoning requirements of the project. The City issued a request for letters of interest from developers and selected a group proposing to build a new hotel on the Lofts site, known as Unit A of

the Westlake Area condominium. On December 1, 2008, the City and 41 Cherry St LLC entered into a Ground Lease providing for the construction of a new hotel on the site.

### **Burial of Utility Lines on North Street and Riverside Avenue**

As part of substantial street reconstruction projects on North Street and Riverside Avenue, the City required, pursuant to ordinance, that all utility lines on these streets be relocated underground. The City asked BED, Adelphia, Verizon and Burlington Telecom as the affected utilities to pay their share (after federal and state contributions) of the relocation costs. BED, with Public Service Board approval, and Telecom agreed to pay their share of the cost. Verizon and Adelphia refused to pay. The City filed complaints in Chittenden Superior Court against Verizon and Adelphia. The Court issued a decision in favor of the City, holding that Verizon must bear its portion of the cost. Verizon (now Fairpoint Communications) has appealed to the Vermont Supreme Court. Briefs have been submitted and the Court has heard oral arguments from the parties. We expect that a decision will be issued soon. The case involving Adelphia is on a slower track because of Adelphia's bankruptcy. Comcast, as the successor in interest to Adelphia, has been added as a Defendant in the case.

### **Public Records Litigation: Gannett Vermont Publishing, Inc. d/b/a Burlington Free Press v. City of Burlington**

The Burlington Free Press requested e-mails between the City Attorney Joseph E. McNeil and other City staff. The City disclosed numerous e-mails pursuant to Vermont's Public Record Law but did not disclose purely personal e-mails not related to City business. The Washington Superior Court issued a written decision on Oct. 6, 2008 vindicating the City's decisions to withhold the emails. The Judge agreed that almost all of the documents were appropriately withheld. He released approximately 20 emails that included a mix of City business and personal communications, with the personal communications redacted. The Judge



**Kenneth A. Schatz**

City Attorney  
and  
Corporation  
Counsel



*City of Burlington, Vermont*

## Office of the City Attorney continued

also agreed that the City appropriately withheld emails related to attorney-client communications and collective bargaining negotiations.

### **Litigation re: March 4, 2008 Ward 7 City Council Election**

The office successfully defended the City and Chief Administrative Officer Jonathan P. A. Leopold, Jr. in the case of Jean O'Sullivan v. City of Burlington & Jonathan Leopold. The complaint sought invalidation of the March 4, 2008 Ward 7 City Council election based on allegations of ballot tampering and election fraud. The court found that the opening of sealed ballot bags to obtain correct tabulations for this election violated 17 V.S.A. § 2590 (c). However, the court dismissed all Plaintiff's claims and requests in the action, ruling that she did not establish that city officials engaged in willful miscon-

duct, had a culpable intent, or that the election result was not valid. Our office has been working closely with the City's election officials and the Secretary of State's Office to train election officials for subsequent elections.

### **Champlain College's Purchase of the Eagles Club:**

Champlain College acquired the Eagles Club property on St. Paul St. after receiving City approval pursuant to the 1994 Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the College. A separate agreement was executed by the City and the College providing certain considerations regarding development of the site, parking, neighborhood impact and its integration and compatibility with any prospective development of the Brown's Court site. The College also agreed to enter into a fee-for-services agreement with the City to cover the cost of City services relating to this property.

### **Proposed New Transit Center**

The City negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding with Chittenden County Transit Association (CCTA) for development of a proposed new transit center on Cherry Street; including the use and application of designated federal funds.

### **Tax Appeals**

In *Delta Psi Fraternity v. the City of Burlington*, the Vermont Supreme Court unanimously ruled for the City in holding that Delta Psi Fraternity's property was not tax exempt because it had discontinued using the property as housing for its members. This decision was an important victory because it prevents the widening of the exemption and the consequent shift of the tax burden on to the rest of the City tax base.

### **Chemical Fire at UVM**

A chemical fire at Delehanty Hall on the University of Vermont campus on May 28, 2007 caused significant damage to City firefighting equipment in the process of responding to this fire, which involved hazardous chemicals. The City settled claims with the University of Vermont over the costs associated with this fire, claims made pursuant to the hazardous chemical damages recovery statute, 20 V.S.A. § 39.







### **Code Enforcement**

The City Attorney's Office assisted the Code Enforcement Office, Fire Department, and Public Works Department in an important code compliance case at 231 S. Prospect St. The departments, in the wake of a fire after long standing enforcement actions, issued orders to vacate the property and the office represented the departments in the appeals of those orders. As a result of these enforcement actions, this 14 unit boarding house was renovated and brought up to fire, building safety, and minimum housing code over a two month period and tenants were successfully relocated pursuant to the protections of the minimum housing code.

The City Attorney's Office has assisted these departments in a number of other code enforcement actions during the year. It is also working with them on creating an administrative enforcement system for the delegated inspection responsibilities under the Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Vermont's Fire Safety Division.

The City Attorney's Office has also assisted these offices and the Public Works Commission in the enforcement and administration of the Vacant and Dangerous Buildings Ordinance. The Office provided legal support to the Commission in its hearings on a vacant building at 2 Appletree Point Lane and then assisted the Code Enforcement Office and building inspector in bringing the owners into compliance with regard to the administrative requirements of the ordinance and abating a dangerous condition on the property.

### **Mayor's Task Forces on Stormwater and Permitting**

The City Attorney's Office provided advice to two Mayoral taskforces, the Stormwater Taskforce and the Permitting Task Force. The Stormwater Taskforce proposed the first comprehensive revision to the City's wastewater, water pollution control and stormwater management system in some 30 years, which was adopted by the City Council on December 15, 2008. The Permitting Taskforce has been working to streamline the Certificate of Occupancy processes of the Planning & Zoning Department and

the Public Works Department and is poised to implement a unified CO. Such an improvement should increase code compliance.

### **Fire and Lead Paint Ordinances**

The City Attorney's Office assisted the Fire Department and Code Enforcement Office and CEDO in the drafting of 2 major ordinances, the comprehensive revision of the City's fire ordinances and a major upgrade to the City's lead paint poisoning prevention housing code. The ordinances were introduced and referred to the City Council Ordinance Committee.

### **Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank Mayor Kiss, Assistant to the Mayor Joe Reinert, the City Council, the various City Commissions and Department Heads, Assistant City Attorneys, Eugene Bergman, Nikki Fuller, Richard Haesler, Kimberlee Sturtevant, our paralegal, Lisa Jones, our Executive Secretary Linda Blanchard, Joseph E. McNeil and all McNeil, Leddy & Sheahan attorneys and staff for their cooperation and assistance during the past year.





*City of Burlington, Vermont*

## Church Street Marketplace

### Farewells and New Names

We said farewell to Jack, Arde and Elaine Fontaine, owners of the legendary Rusty Scuffer; and welcomed new owner Mike Williams (owner of Kountry Kart Deli) who renamed the business Scuffer Steak & Ale. Welcome to these new businesses: Boloco, Second Time Around, M-A-C Cosmetics and Whim.

### Increased Sponsorships

Our thanks also to Stowe Mountain Resort, Fairpoint Communications, Hall Communications, NewsChannel 5, The Burlington Free Press and Northfield Savings Bank. Their partnerships make our events possible!

### Improvements Continue

In Summer of 2008, we began improvements to the alleyway between the Marketplace Garage and the Marketplace – a major gateway to Church Street. Resurfacing, new lighting and stone work have transformed the alleyway into a much more inviting environment for our guests. Upcoming improvements: Church Street's street lighting and electrical system.



**Ron Redmond**

Executive  
Director

new city center, modeled on Church Street, is in the works for South Burlington. Williston's Tafts Corners has evolved into a consumer-diverse mix of big boxes and local, one-of-a-kind shops and eateries. If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, then we're flattered. But we're also energized to sustain Downtown as the unique experience it has been for more than 25 years. In 2009, The Downtown Partnership (CEDO, the Marketplace and Burlington Business Association), along with the Burlington Planning Commission, will seek your valued input as they update and expand Downtown's long-term vision and plan, first developed in 1989-90.

### Capturing the Millennial Generation

By the year 2010, members of the millennial generation (1982 – 2000) will outnumber Baby Boomers and Gen-Xers. This generation is technologically savvy, community-minded and very social. We're now on Facebook, are revamping our website and encouraging all of our local business owners to have a presence on the Web – an essential!

### The Greening of Church Street

Our thanks to Mike Cozad and All Cycle/Casella Waste Systems for sponsoring the Marketplace's trash hauling and recycling – providing a \$10,000 savings to our operating budget. All Cycle also donated new recycling containers for the street, and a new electric vehicle used for trash removal and errands on the Marketplace. All 2008 holiday lights will be 100% LED.

### Responsible Hospitality

We continued our involvement with downtown's hospitality sector. Burlington Police, the Marketplace, Red Square, Rasputin's and Nectar's worked together to create the Cabaret Association of Burlington. Its mission is to create and maintain a symbiotic relationship with the community that celebrates a vibrant, supportive and safe hospitality and entertainment industry in Burlington. The primary goal is to increase responsible hospitality in our downtown, reduce calls to BPD for service and enhance public safety in our downtown.

### Competition from the Suburbs is Heating Up

Downtown Burlington's planners were ahead of the curve when they envisioned the Church Street Marketplace. Now, other areas are catching up—areas with advantages like I-89 access and more parking. A



**Great Public Space**

The American Planning Association (APA) designated Church Street Marketplace as one of 10 Great Public Spaces for 2008 for its "inclusive and careful planning and design process, historic buildings, thriving retail trade, carefully maintained streets and walkways, and strong community support." We're in good company as New York City's Central Park was also selected!

**On the Marketing Front**

We continued with our event strategy – creating, developing and managing events that will bring people to the Marketplace for a positive downtown experience. Our

thanks to corporate sponsors Fairpoint Communications, Stowe Mountain Resort, Burlington Free Press, Hall Communications, NewsChannel 5, Northfield Savings, Magic Hat Brewery and Casella Waste Management. Their financial support makes our marketing program possible.

We thank you for the opportunity to be of service to you – for what we believe is the country's best pedestrian mall!





*City of Burlington, Vermont*

## Office of the City Clerk/Treasurer

The mission of the Office of the City Clerk/Treasurer is to oversee and manage the City's finances and to maintain and strengthen five basic structures of local democracy: elections, public records, City Council proceedings, licensing, and the dissemination of public information. We maintain a system of accounting consistent with recognized accounting standards and full disclosure of the City's financial position. We coordinate the preparation of the Mayor's annual budget and maintain budget control.

We also provide administrative leadership, direction and support to the Mayor, City Council, City Departments and the public. We continually strive to improve our services for the citizens of Burlington and the various members of City government. Please phone 865-7000 with any questions for the City Clerk/Treasurer's Office or go to <http://www.ci.burlington.vt.us/ct/>.

### City Finances Continue to Improve

The finances of the City remain sound and continued to improve in Fiscal Year 2008. The improvement in General Fund finances

included an increase in the Fund Balance to an historic high level of more than \$7 million. Similarly, the "Undesignated Funds" of the Fund Balance increased from more than \$2.3 million to approximately \$4.3 million. The Undesignated Funds represent the City's emergency reserves or "rainy day" fund to meet unforeseen contingencies. The current level of the Undesignated Funds as of 6/30/08 is an historic high and close to 9% of operating revenues which is a reasonable level consistent with sound financial management.

The rate of growth in City expenses has been significantly reduced as General Fund operating expenditures for FY 2008 increased less than 4% over FY 2007. Total General Fund Expenditures including Capital Improvements actually decreased 1.5%. The FY 2008 budget reduced City General Fund personnel and the rate of growth of personnel related expenditures. Revenues and Expenditures were consistent with the budget proposed by Mayor Kiss and adopted by the City Council in June, 2007.

The municipal tax rate for FY 2008 and FY 2009 remained level with a total non-school rate of 67 cents per hundred dollars



**Jonathan P.A. Leopold, Jr.**  
Chief  
Administrative  
Officer





of assessed value. General Fund revenues of more than \$48.7 million exceeded conservative budget estimates. In particular, Gross Receipts and Local Option Sales Taxes totaled more than \$4.3 million, 23% higher than budgeted. In addition, the City received approximately \$600,000 in fees for municipal services pursuant to a new agreement with the University of Vermont. The City also received \$98,000 in fees for municipal services from Champlain College in addition to \$325,000 in property taxes.

FY 2008 General Fund Expenditures were generally consistent with the budget. Expenditures in the Fire Department exceeded the budget due to overtime costs for minimum staffing. The adverse winter and spring weather resulted in an overrun in expenditures in the Department of Public Works for snow removal and street repair.

These expenses over budget were offset by lower than budgeted expenses in health, workers compensation and general liability insurances. In prior years, the rate of growth of expenditures for these insurances significantly exceeded the rate of inflation. This was a major factor in the high rate of growth in City expenditures. The moderation of these expenditures reflected the development of strong risk management and employee wellness programs and competitively bidding these programs for the first time in 15 years.

### **Funding Street Repaving**

The unusual weather in the spring of 2008 and the general deterioration of City streets over many years resulted in an unsatisfactory condition for many City streets. As a response, in March 2008 the Mayor proposed and the Council adopted an amendment to the FY 2008 Capital Budget to make a special appropriation of \$500,000 to resurface more than 6 lane miles of city streets. This appropriation was a significant addition to the annual budget for street and sidewalk maintenance enabling the Department of Public Works to more than double the street repaving program this year.

### **Mayor's Budget Task Force**

In February 2007, Mayor Kiss appointed a second Citizen Budget Task Force to assist in the development of the Fiscal Year 2008 Budget. Comprised of 24 citizens, the Task Force included representatives elected by the Neighborhood Planning Assemblies (NPA's) and randomly selected volunteers from all Wards of the City and members from the first Task Force.

The Task Force met through the spring and early summer and issued a report of recommendations in July 2008. The Task Force reviewed the finances and proposed budgets for all major departments of the City except for the Airport and Burlington Telecom. Ultimately, the FY 2008 budget proposed by Mayor Kiss and approved by the City Council in June 2007 increased expenses less than 3.1 % over the previous year. In addition, the Task Force reviewed the City's progress in addressing the recommendations of the previous Task Force.

The reports and recommendations of the first, second and most recently the third Citizen Task Forces are available on the City's website. The work of the several Task Forces has helped the City moderate the growth in City expenditures, improve revenues, restructure programs and services and address important issues such as rebuilding the city infrastructure.

### **Five Year Capital Improvements Plan**

The City typically undertakes multi-million dollar capital improvements each fiscal year. In the fall of 2006, Mayor Kiss asked the City Engineer's Division of the Department of Public Works to develop and institute a comprehensive planning and review process to coordinate and prioritize the capital improvements projects of the City's General Fund departments. The City Engineer's Division developed a comprehensive methodology to identify, review and prioritize proposed projects. This process culminated in the development of a comprehensive five year plan which was proposed by Mayor Kiss and the Board of Finance and approved by the City Council as the Capital Improvements Budget for Fiscal Year 2008.

### **VITAL STATISTICS**

Births  
**2,254**

Deaths  
**923**

Marriages  
**350**

Civil Unions  
**47**

Dog Licenses  
**1,471**



*City of Burlington, Vermont*

## Office of the City Clerk/Treasurer continued

### **Retirement Fund and Task Force**

In April, 2006 Mayor Kiss appointed a Special Task Force on the Burlington Employees Retirement System (BERS). In May, 2006 the Task Force issued a preliminary report to the Mayor and City Council with recommendations to reduce the administrative and investment management costs of the pension fund by \$350,000 and to consider contracting with the State of Vermont Pension Investment Committee (VPIC) to manage the investment of the City's pension fund.

These recommendations were adopted by the City Council in June, 2006 and incorporated into the FY 2007 budget. Subsequently, the Retirement Board instituted several changes to substantially reduce costs and improve performance. On November 1, 2007, the City transferred approximately \$111 million or 90% of the BERS investments to the VPIC for investment management.

Through FY 2007 the Task Force continued with a review of the Retirement System and released a report with findings and recommendations in July 2007. The report recommended a restructuring of benefits, the issuance of a Pension Obligation Bond to pay for the unfunded liability of the system, and to remove the pensions system from collective bargaining. It is expected that these recommendations will be the subject of collective bargaining as labor contracts expire in June 2009.

With the downturn in the economy, the assets of the BERS decreased \$9,201,673 or 7% in FY 2008 from \$127,743,711 to \$118,542,038. The annual actuarial valuation for June 30, 2007 set forth an actuarial valuation of assets of approximately \$119.8 million and a pension obligation of \$150 million. The net unfunded obligation of \$29.8 million reflects a level of 80% funding of the City's liabilities.

In the fall of 2007, the City negotiated contracts with the Fire and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers unions to adopt the changes in retirement benefits and to increase employees' contributions to the retirement system as previously adopted by the AFSCME and Police unions. While further changes will be necessary to moderate the cost of the retirement system, the changes approved to date will strengthen the system and reduce costs in future years.

### **Credit Rating, Bonds and Financings**

In December 2007 the City issued \$2.75 million in General Obligation Bonds including \$1 million for capital improvements each for the City and Electric Department and \$750,000 for the School Department. In conjunction with this bond issue, Moody's Investors Service conducted a full credit rating review and reconfirmed the City's Aa3 credit rating.

This reconfirmation of the City's strong credit rating reflected the City's effective budget management and continuing commitment to strengthening its finances, as well as the strong economy of Burlington. Important fiscal measures undertaken by the City included the continued commitment to full funding of the annual obligation to the Retirement System, the small increase in expenditures in the FY 2008 budget and the continuing success of efforts to increase the City's financial reserves.

In August 2007 the City completed the lease/purchase financing for Burlington Telecom for \$33.5 million, competitively bid in May 2007. This financing included refinancing the \$22.3 million of original financing and provided an additional \$10 million for the continued build out of the City's fiber optic network. The lease/purchase financing pledges the revenues and assets of Burlington Telecom.

### **Licenses and Records**

The administrative activities of the Office include the coordination of elections, the issuance of licenses and permits, as well as vital and land records. During the past year we issued and recorded the following:

- 88 First-class Liquor Licenses
- 47 Second-class Liquor Licenses
- 959 Property Transfers
- 1,471 Dog Licenses

### **Appreciation**

In closing, I want to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of the staff of the Clerk/Treasurer's Office. The City benefits greatly from their dedicated and high quality service.

## Code Enforcement

The Code Enforcement office provides enforcement and education for a range of ordinances and regulations in three broad categories: housing, zoning and health.

### Minimum Housing Program

- Maintains a registry of approximately 10,000 rental dwelling units;
- Conducts routine inspections of all rental units and provides enforcement of the City's minimum-housing standards and other related regulations;
- Provides funds for tenant advocacy and support services through Vermont Tenants;
- Provides funds for services to rental property owners through the Vermont Apartment Owners Association; and
- Provides ongoing education to rental property owners and tenants about requirements and resources for compliance.

Inspector training is an important focus of the department. Inspectors completed specialized training for lead inspector certification, residential mechanical systems, storm water requirements, Vermont Health Department asbestos and lead workshops, departmental cross training for zoning enforcement, and refugee cultural orientation. Goals for the coming year include inspector certification through the American Association of Code Enforcement.

### Zoning Enforcement

- Investigation, documentation, and enforcement for zoning ordinance violations; and
- Processing and issuance of zoning certificates of occupancy.

This year we implemented improved zoning enforcement and customer service with coordinated interdepartmental zoning complaint protocols and zoning certificate of occupancy protocols. In the coming year, the Mayor's interdepartmental permitting group plans to simplify the certificate of occupancy (CO) process for property owners by implementing a joint CO protocol for building and zoning permits.

Additional Code Enforcement responsibilities include street patrol and complaint response for exterior property and neighborhood problems such as:

- Trash and furniture at the exterior of properties and in the greenbelt;
- Exterior property dilapidation and vacant building ordinance enforcement;

- Parking on lawns and other parking in violation of property site plans;
- Pesticide/herbicide ordinance and other environmental hazard abatement;
- Greenbelt sign regulations; and
- Overgrown vegetation.

### Board of Health

Code Enforcement staff works closely with the Burlington Board of Health, a citizen advisory board appointed by the City Council. Chaired by Alan Sousie, additional members are Mary Hart, Fern Crete, Jay Vos, and Ian Galbraith. The Board has limited statutory responsibility for the prevention, removal or destruction of public health hazards and the mitigation of public health risks. The Board recommends deputy health officer appointments and is the hearing and appeal body for health orders issued in Burlington. The Board took testimony and made recommendations regarding a Burlington hookah warning rule, a new City stormwater ordinance, and revisions of the minimum housing standards to incorporate State lead regulations.

A primary function of the Board is public health education. This year the Board held public hearings and produced educational materials and programming on a variety of issues, including domestic violence, proposed revisions to the pesticide ordinance, alternatives to chemical pesticides, water fluoridation, as well as fluoride and infant formula preparation.

### Community Partnerships

This year we continued to strengthen our collaborative efforts with community partners, particularly Vermont Tenants, Burlington Housing Authority, the UVM Office of Student and Community Relations, the Vermont Apartment Owners Association, the Vermont Department of Health, Champlain Housing Trust, the Chittenden Solid Waste District, and Recycle North. We thank these and all our community partners for the shared information, resources, workshops, and events in support of community education, safe housing, and livable neighborhoods.

The minimum standards for rental properties and more information about the Code Department may be found on line at [www.ci.burlington.vt.us/codeenforcement/](http://www.ci.burlington.vt.us/codeenforcement/) or by contacting the Code complaint line at (802) 863-0442.



**Kathleen Butler**  
Director



*City of Burlington, Vermont*

## Community & Economic Development Office

The Community and Economic Development Office works with the community to foster economic vitality; preserve and enhance neighborhoods, quality of life, and the environment; and promote equity and opportunity for all residents of Burlington. CEDO is the lead City agency for planning and implementing the City's affordable housing, economic development, and anti-poverty agendas, and provides a range of community engagement, prevention, intervention, and restorative services. CEDO administers a wide variety of grant programs, which both fund CEDO's activities and support the local nonprofit infrastructure.

Highlights of our activities are described below, particularly as they relate to our departmental purpose as defined by the City Charter:

### Community and Economic Development

CEDO is charged to work on behalf of the city to stimulate investment and to attract, retain, and encourage the development of both existing and new economic enterprises. This year:

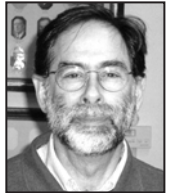
- Economic development activities supported the start-up of 39 new businesses, helped to retain/expand 49 businesses, and led to the creation of 370.5 permanent FTE jobs (plus 1,318 construction jobs) and retention of 443 permanent FTE jobs.
- Major developments included Burton Snowboard's decision to stay in the city and to purchase the structure next to their existing building, keeping 360 jobs here with 275 new jobs expected over the next five years, and Dealer.com's purchase of the remainder of the former Specialty Filaments

building on Pine Street, with 70 new hires and four new workforce training programs.

- CDBG expenditures on economic development leveraged over \$78 million in private and other public investment and supported the development and/or renovation of 38,880 sq. ft. of commercial space, with increased property tax revenues of \$370,604 and increased rooms and meals revenues of \$133,288.

CEDO is charged to develop, coordinate, implement, and administer economic and community development strategies and projects for the City. This year:

- CEDO rewrote the Consolidated Plan for Housing & Community Development, which is the City's comprehensive community and economic development strategy.
- CEDO worked with the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston's New England Public Policy Center to conduct a research project on the software and technology industry, finding that the Chittenden County region has 50% more people on average working in the technology field than in the nation. Related to this research,



**Larry Kupferman**  
Director







- CEDO helped to sponsor the first Vermont 3.0 Creative Tech Career Jam. The VT Software Developers Alliance, created three years ago with CEDO's support, was able to hire its first Executive Director.
- CEDO's Americorps\*VISTA program, in its fourteenth year, placed 36 members in 31 community agencies. Those members managed 3,646 volunteers who performed 77,915 hours of service. They also raised \$282,000 in cash and in-kind donations. During 2008, the VISTA program leveraged a value of over \$1.6 million for the community.
  - Recognizing changing demographics and changing needs in Burlington, CEDO's Center for Community and Neighborhoods (CCAN) convened community leaders to strategize about how to address issues of racial and social inequity. Throughout 2008, CCAN crafted the "We All Belong" initiative to foster a greater sense of shared community for all Burlington citizens. "We All Belong" will develop the capacity and leadership skills of underrepresented people while providing support to schools and non-governmental organizations to meet changing needs of diverse populations. The initiative is primarily tailored to reach the school community and those most affected by poverty.
  - The Parallel Justice Commission worked on a policy change at Fletcher Allen Health Care to ensure that victims' bills are not forwarded to a collections agency when they are not immediately paid by Victims' Compensation. This policy change led to the passage of statewide legislation.

### **Housing**

CEDO is charged to develop, coordinate, implement, and administer a comprehensive program to address the City's housing needs. This year, in addition to the rewrite of the city's Consolidated Plan for Housing & Community Development:

- CEDO worked with the Burlington Housing Authority to preserve the affordability of the Randall/Gable Apartments. Over the last five years, a total of 285 units whose subsidies were expiring were preserved as affordable units, including

those at Northgate and Heineberg. The refinancing of 80 units at Salmon Run is underway.

- With the help of Section 108, CDBG, HOME and/or Housing Trust Fund dollars (together with technical assistance), the 32-unit Co-Housing project on East Avenue is complete; 22 new rental units are under construction on King Street, as are 12 new transitional units for victims of domestic violence at Sophie's Place; and predevelopment work is underway at Browns Court.
- Forty housing units were rehabbed, with work ranging from new paint to emergency repairs to major rehabilitation.
- Housing development and rehab activities added close to another \$150,000 in property tax revenues this year.

### **Waterfront Development**

CEDO is charged to develop, coordinate, implement, and administer waterfront development activities other than those activities which the Planning Commission and the city council must exercise under the Vermont Planning and Development Act.

This year:

- After 65% of Burlington voters approved a proposal to redevelop the Moran Plant, CEDO began working with other city departments and city partners on next steps, which include legal agreements between the city and its partners, additional architectural and engineering services, addressing city financing, and fundraising campaigns by the Community Sailing Center and Green Mountain Children's Museum.
- CEDO organized and facilitated "scoping" meetings to work with residents to develop alternatives for addressing transportation issues, problems, and opportunities around improving access to the waterfront, and then presented design alternatives online for public review.
- The Lake and College Street redevelopment project, supported with a \$10 million Commercial Revitalization Deduction in 2003, became home to Merrill Lynch offices. Seventh Generation, headquartered in the building, is in the process of expanding into and renovating 10,000 sq. ft. and has hired 28 new employees.



*City of Burlington, Vermont*

## Community & Economic Development Office continued

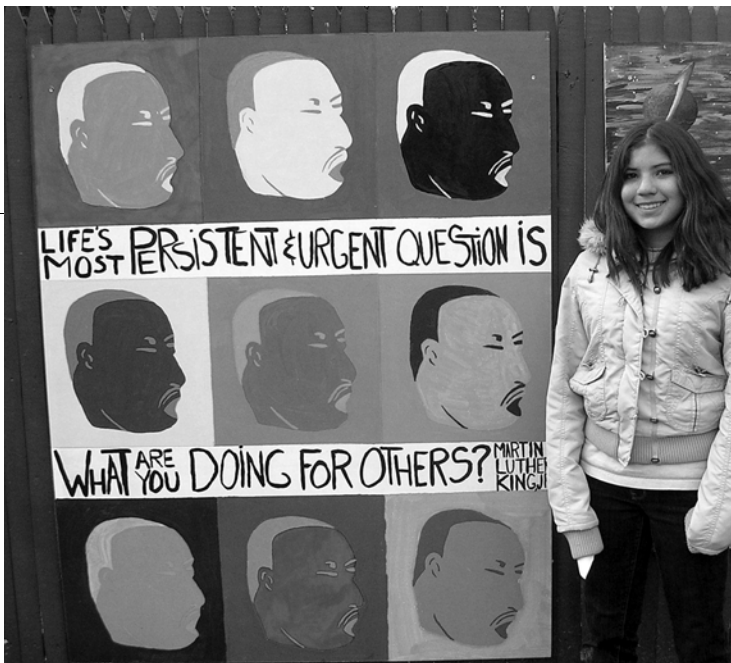
### Citizen Participation

CEDO is charged to coordinate and facilitate citizen participation in economic and community development with community organizations, city commissions, and the Neighborhood Planning Assemblies. This year:

- CEDO managed the extensive public process to solicit feedback and comment from residents about the Moran Plant, including numerous open houses and public informational meetings, presentations to all five of the NPAs, and the establishment of a citizen-driven Moran Advisory Group.
- CEDO continued to provide support to the City's seven Neighborhood Planning Assemblies. Over 1,600 people attended

Improvement Night event to discuss the proposed City Transportation Plan. Over 400 Burlington residents participated in an evening of information gathering, questions and answers, and identification of next steps.

- As always, citizens selected through the NPAs reviewed all Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications and made \$703,924 funding recommendations that were accepted by the Mayor and City Council.
- Citizen-generated neighborhood projects funded by CDBG and completed this year included new lighting at the Heineberg Senior Center, community garden improvements throughout the city, and new playground equipment at Pomeroy and Schmanska Parks.
- Over 800 residents participated in other events that encourage civic participation.
  - Over 250 people participated in the annual Dr. Martin Luther King day of service, organized by CEDO's AmeriCorps\*VISTAs and including a Speak-Out, community service projects, and dinner.
  - CEDO coordinated a city-wide Green Up Day in May where 520 volunteers collected 299 bags of garbage, cleaned 631 green-belts and removed 160 tires.
  - Over 200 residents attended the eighth annual Neighborhood Night of Success, a dinner and award celebration recognizing the people who make Burlington a great place to live, work, and play.
- CEDO continued to foster community participation in resolving conflicts, supporting victims of crime and holding offenders accountable.
  - The Restorative Justice Program and the Community Support Program helped 408 individuals to work out their own community conflicts or to repair harm to victims and other community members caused by their low level crime.



NPA meetings this year, participating in a forum for communication between residents, City and other government entities to discuss issues of development, planning, elections, budgets, community safety and other social issues facing our neighborhoods.

- Building on Vermont's history of active and engaged Town Meetings, each NPA hosted a Neighborhood



- Parallel Justice for Victims of Crime engaged businesses, community members, and local/state government to support 244 victims of crime. An additional 899 individuals were contacted and offered information, support, and services.
- The Offender Reentry Employment Program worked with over 30 employers this year, including the Lead Abatement program, and assisted nearly 300 people in securing employment via a weekly job meeting.

AmeriCorps\*State, a sister program to AmeriCorps\*VISTA will provide increased capacity for agencies to do direct service with Burlington's low-income and newly resettled populations.

### **CDBG and Other Grant Activities**

CEDO is charged to administer Community Development Block Grants and Urban Development Action grants and to manage such grants-in-aid programs in accordance with the laws and regulations pertaining thereto. This year:

- CEDO administered 27 CDBG subgrants to 19 different community nonprofit agencies.
- With the help of these grants, over 5,300 people (adults and children) were fed by anti-hunger programs; over 1,100 homeless people (including families with children and victims of domestic violence) had a safe, warm place to sleep; over 2,700 people kept their heat on; 575 youth participated in CDBG-funded summertime and after-school recreational, academic and social enrichment programs; and over 600 seniors received meals, health care, help with public benefits, in-home assistance and/or participated in social activities.



CEDO is charged to recommend to the city council, and to solicit on behalf of the city council, grants-in-aid funds for the City. This year:

- CEDO successfully competed for a \$2.8 million Lead Hazard Reduction grant to help protect the Burlington's children from lead paint poisoning.
- CEDO successfully competed for a \$274,000 grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service to create an AmeriCorps\*State team to support the We All Belong Initiative. Thirty-five members will begin their service at seventeen area agencies and city departments.



*City of Burlington, Vermont*

## Burlington Electric Department

As fuel costs increase everywhere and many factors such as weather and the depletion of fossil fuel remain outside of our control, Burlington Electric Department continues to move forward with energy efficiency and renewable energy, knowing that this will be the way we successfully transition to a post-fossil fuel economy.

The 2008 Integrated Resource Plan, still in draft form in FY08, has a goal of dramatically increasing energy efficiency and moving BED toward a 100 percent renewable energy mix, a goal that is dramatically above what most utilities are hoping to achieve in the near term. The energy efficiency programs that have been going strong since Burlington voters approved an Energy Efficiency Bond in 1990 have been so successful that in FY08 Burlington as a whole used only 1 percent more electricity than in 1989, the year before the bond vote. Today, BED customers (like all others statewide) pay a small monthly charge that supports BED's energy efficiency efforts. Not only do energy efficiency and renewable energy help our environment but these dollars stay local and provide an economic boost to the region.

The voters of Burlington approved a \$39.6 million bond in March 2008 to fund many new projects. The cost of the bond will be funded through efficiencies and revenues generated by these projects, which include a NOx (nitrogen oxide) reduction unit at McNeil. Once added, the NOx emissions from the wood-chip facility will be cut in half and McNeil power will be able to be sold in the profitable Renewable Energy Credit markets in Connecticut.

Risk Management successfully prepared and produced documentation for an off-site compliance audit of Reliability Standards set forth by North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and the Northeast Power Coordinating Council (NPCC). According to these two entities, the evidence provided to demonstrate compliance was complete and well organized.

### **Energy Efficiency**

Since the authorization of the energy efficiency bond in 1990, BED has developed and administered programs that have be-

come a model for others around the country and the world. These services provide Burlington homes and businesses with a complete range of solutions for all of their efficiency needs. Through 2007, more than \$16 million has been invested by BED in efficiency efforts. This money has leveraged an additional \$16 million from customers for a total of \$32 million. During 2007 alone, BED saved 9,296 Megawatt hours (mWh) of energy from installed efficiency measures, which will result in 121,761 mWh of savings over the useful life of the installed measures (2007 measures have a weighted lifetime of 13 years). This is equivalent to providing energy to about 1,696 Burlington residential customers for 13 years.

Harder to quantify but of increasing importance to BED customers are the emissions avoided by decreasing the need for electricity generation. Because of the energy savings (9,296 mWh) generated by energy efficiency programs in 2007 alone, Burlington will have avoided the release of 78,000 tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), the equivalent of removing about 2,200 cars from U.S. highways each year for the next 13 years.

### **Power Supply**

In FY08, the McNeil Generating Station produced 286,140 net megawatt-hours of power (equal to the power used by 47,690 Burlington-sized residences for a year). The plant consumed 412,629 tons of wood. Sixty-seven percent of BED's power supply in FY08 came from renewable energy sources, primarily from McNeil and hydroelectric facilities. Eleven percent came from natural gas generators, 10 percent from nuclear generators, 4 percent from coal and 2 percent from oil.

### **Engineering and Operations**

In FY08 the Engineering and Operations groups concentrated their efforts on improving system reliability through upgrades to the City's electrical infrastructure and exploring ways to reduce outages. BED continued to make improvements to its aerial facilities on Farrington Parkway, Marshall Drive, Goss Court, Heineberg Road, Ethan Allen Parkway, Plattsburgh Avenue, Sky Drive, Venus Avenue and Turf Road. In addition, BED upgraded the underground in-



**Barbara Grimes**  
General  
Manager



rastructure on Bilodeau Court, Crescent Beach Drive, Randy Lane, Dodds Court and two large sections of Lakewood Estates. BED also rebuilt the "A" jet of the Gas Turbine generator. BED continued to work on the East Avenue Loop (EAL) transmission upgrade project with VELCO and GMP. This project will provide Burlington with a backup feed from VELCO's transmission grid to BED's East Avenue Substation, increasing the overall reliability of BED's system.

### **Financial Information**

FY08 was a challenging year financially for BED. Operating revenues were down 2.5 percent (\$1,252,000) from budget due to weather impacts and energy conservation by customers. Conversely, power supply costs were up over budget by 4.9 percent (\$1,300,000). This increase was largely due

to major cost increases in both transmission fees (in Vermont and BED's share of New England system costs) and woodchip costs for the McNeil station, which were 8.6 percent higher than planned. Although BED was able to meet its debt coverage obligation, the combined effect meant that BED reported a net loss for the year of \$512,000.

BED continued to meet its fiscal obligations while reducing its long-term debt by \$5,491,700 or 9 percent. In addition, BED paid the City of Burlington \$1,422,100 in payment in lieu of taxes and remitted \$1,555,200 in franchise fees collected on behalf of the City.



Aerial view of McNeil plant



*City of Burlington, Vermont*

## Burlington Fire Department

The Burlington Fire Department continues to provide state of the art Fire Suppression and Emergency Medical Care to citizens and visitors in our fine City. The Department combines these services with Public Fire Education and Inspection programs that rival any community in the country. I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the men and women of the Burlington Fire Department for their efforts over the past year. Without their efforts, the Fire Department could not have enhanced its ability to serve the Community. I also want to thank the elected and appointed officials as well as the citizens of Burlington that have enabled us to succeed.

The men and women of the Burlington Fire Department provide citizens with a level of protection and prevention they should be proud of. During FY 2008, Burlington experienced 3.7% less fires in occupied buildings than last year, while the

effectiveness of our fire suppression efforts improved by 5%. The reduction in the number of fires can be attributed to our strong fire prevention efforts, which include education, inspection and enforcement of State and local codes. The improvement in our firefighting effectiveness can be attributed to the outstanding efforts of our firefighters, backed by a strong training program and well-maintained equipment. This 96.5% save rate reflects the \$711,000 in property lost to fire during FY 2008 compared to the \$19.5 million dollars worth of property saved. During the preceding year we saved of 91.4% of the property, losing \$1.8 million in property, but saved \$21 million dollars worth. Ninety percent of the fires were held to the room of origin this year.

### **Emergency Medical Division**

The Burlington Fire Department's two ambulances continue to be the busiest in the state responding to nearly 5000 emergency calls annually. The firefighter/EMTs of this

**Michael E. O'Neil**  
Chief



Burlington Fire Department Command Team





department work very hard to provide the finest emergency medical care through ongoing training, recertification and work experience. The department provides both basic and advanced emergency care by providing interventions such as intravenous fluids, drug therapies and defibrillation. The department responds to medical emergencies by utilizing a two-tiered response system by sending the closest Engine Company and Rescue unit. This type of response gives us the ability to begin providing care within minutes of the call, routinely less than four minutes. New this year, we have purchased two Non-Invasive Carbon Monoxide monitors. These machines give us the ability to quickly screen and identify the amount of Carbon Monoxide within a patient who has been potentially exposed to Carbon Monoxide.

### **Office of the City Fire Marshal**

The Office of the City Fire Marshal is committed to reducing the loss of lives and property in Burlington. The office meets this goal primarily through voluntary compliance with applicable codes and ordinances achieved through education and inspections. Fire Marshal staff review the design, installation and final testing of all required fire protection systems in all new and renovated buildings in the City. These systems include building fire pumps, sprinkler systems, fire alarm and carbon monoxide detection systems, commercial cooking suppression systems and specialty agent fire suppressions systems. This past year a total of 148 of these systems were installed in the city.

This office also reviewed for compliance the test and inspection reports for existing 1400-plus fire protection systems. The office has drafted a major re-write of our fire safety ordinance, which is now working its way through the City Council review process. This revision will facilitate open government by creating clear guidance. It will also streamline the inspection and enforcement process by de-criminalizing all but the most serious violations. The office is responsible for conducting inspections of all State licensed occupancies. In total, more than 2220 of these inspections were

conducted. In addition, the Fire Marshal's office is responsible for determining the origin and cause of all significant fires occurring in the City.

The Office of the City Fire Marshal acts as an information clearinghouse for the more than 7000 calls received by the staff this year. It conducts the majority of the Department's public education programs, including public service announcements and web-based information, and direct delivery of fire safety information on home heating to approximately 4500 homes in Burlington. The school-based programs include school visits for 9 separate schools, including pre-school through the fifth grade students, reaching approximately 2500 children through these programs. For the first time this year, this training included over 100 home-schooled students. Fire safety programs were also delivered to high risk audiences, including more than 600 college students. Additional programs have been delivered for staff at places of assembly. Facilities safety training for the business community has included crowd management training, training for manmade and natural events, and speaking engagements with community and professional groups.



**FEMA Emergency Operations Training**



*City of Burlington, Vermont*

## Burlington Housing Authority

With its administrative offices located at 65 Main Street, the Burlington Housing Authority (BHA) provides affordable housing for low-income residents in the City of Burlington and neighboring communities. Our public housing apartments accommodate seniors, people with disabilities, and families. Section 8 and related grants for people with special needs provide rental assistance for approximately 1,800 households in privately owned housing. We also own or manage over 350 other apartments, most of which are federally subsidized.

BHA receives no municipal tax dollars. Our programs are operated from rental income and financial support from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Annually, BHA brings over \$16 million in federal funds to Burlington and surrounding communities. For FY2008, we made a payment in lieu of taxes to the City of \$61,143.

### Public Housing

BHA's 343 units of public housing are located in five developments: Decker Towers, Champlain Apartments, Riverside Apartments, Franklin Square, and Hillside Terrace.

Thanks to a sustained team effort by our staff, BHA continues to maintain "High Performer" status under HUD's Public Housing Assessment System. We have developed a 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan, which ensures that our public housing buildings and units will be maintained in excellent condition.

### Section 8 and Related Programs

Our Housing Choice Voucher Program, which has tripled in size over the past ten years and now serves over 1,700 families, has also been declared a "High Performer" by HUD. As part of that program, we have initiated a project-based subsidy program, which has supported many new affordable housing developments in Burlington and neighboring communities. We also provide rental assistance under a number of other programs serving special needs populations.

Our Section 8 Homeownership Voucher program, which allows subsidy holders to use their rental assistance for homeownership, helped more than 85 families to become homeowners, and remains one of the most successful programs of its kind in the nation.

### Section 8 Project-Based Developments

BHA now owns or manages more than 340 apartments assisted under the Section 8 project-based program or the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program. A particular focus continues to be the acquisition and rehabilitation of privately owned Section 8 apartment buildings in the King Street neighborhood.

### New Affordable Housing

BHA focuses on the development of service enriched housing for individuals and households with special needs. In 2008, construction began on Sophie's Place, an 11 unit development for victims of domestic violence.

### Resident Services

In addition to affordable housing, BHA provides a variety of services to its residents and program participants:

- Our Family Self-Sufficiency Program assists more than 100 households in achieving their goals of financial self-sufficiency. Over 30 percent of these families are building savings accounts for homeownership or other goals.
- In 2008, BHA launched a Skills for Life program in our public housing developments, assisting residents to achieve employment, education and economic goals.
- In partnership with Fletcher Allen, BHA established a Wellness Program in all three of our high-rises. The Wellness program provides tenants with on-site nursing staff for care management, information, referral, and limited home-care services.
- Our DREAM program, a collaboration with students from Saint Michael's College, provides mentoring services to children at Franklin Square Apartments and Riverside Apartments.
- The Offender Re-Entry Housing Program assists offenders returning to our community to find and maintain appropriate housing.
- Our African Immigrant Initiative employs a case manager/interpreter who assists Somali Bantu and other immigrants living in housing operated by the Burlington and Winooski Housing Authorities.
- Our Technology Center for BHA program participants at Decker Towers will soon be expanded to include satellite centers at other public housing developments.



**Paul Dettman**  
Executive Director



## Annual Financial Report 2008

# Human Resources

The Human Resources (HR) department supports City employees and managers by providing assistance in the following areas: labor and employee relations, recruitment and hiring, benefits administration, workers compensation insurance claims and loss prevention, wellness activities, employee development, and ADA and EEO compliance. HR also supports the City Council Institutions & Human Resources Policy Committee.

The HR department experienced a significant amount of transition during this last year. Lynne Perry retired as Benefits and Insurance Administrator and was succeeded by Julie Palagonia in October. In February 2008, Director Larry Kupferman left the department to assume the CEDO Directorship and Kristin Lonerwright, previously an HR Generalist, was promoted and appointed Director. Aditee Manjaramkar was hired and now serves as the second HR Generalist for the city.

### Recruiting and Hiring

The HR department leads the City's efforts to recruit well qualified candidates. More than 1200 applications were received and processed for 75 regular vacant city positions. Hiring paperwork for approximately 450 temporary and seasonal employees was received and processed by the department. In addition, the department processed 375 criminal background record checks on applicants hired to work in positions with vulnerable populations. In this past year, the department continued its effort to diversify the workforce by increasing the city's recruitment, hiring and retention of staff members from diverse racial and ethnic communities.

### Community Support

Once again, the HR department, with help from staff at Burlington Electric Department, Department of Public Works and representatives from all other City departments, coordinated and raised funds to support the City's United Way campaign. HR also coordinated the annual American Cancer Society "Daffodil Day" and continues to work with employees who are members of the armed services in support of their service requirements. In addition, HR supports

the Howard Center's Project Hire which is dedicated to providing supported employment services to individuals with disabilities seeking competitive employment.

### Healthcare, Safety and Wellness

As a result of successful negotiations with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont in FY08, the City's costs for healthcare will only rise by just over 10 percent. The City pursued several wellness initiatives in FY08. With the assistance of Blue Cross and Blue Shield, a Wellness Committee was formed made up of employees of all levels in various city departments. The Committee's work has included encouraging lifestyle changes by providing a 50% subsidy to city employees for participation in weight loss programs, assisting with the redesign and upgrade of equipment in an employee fitness room located at DPW, and providing Pilates classes to employees. In addition, the Wellness Committee has sponsored a series of Wellness Fairs throughout the city during which employees were provided the opportunity to consult with a nutritionist, participate in cholesterol and blood pressure screenings, complete Personal Health Assessments, and receive flu shots.



**Kristin Lonerwright**  
Director





*City of Burlington, Vermont*  
**Human Resources** continued

In an effort to continue to promote prevention, a physical therapist from Injury & Health Management Solutions (IHMS), visits employees to evaluate minor aches and pains through a Preventative Body Maintenance program. This program teaches employees how to properly care for aches and pains before they become major work-place or non-work place injuries through stretching and simple exercises.

In March 2008, in conjunction with Hickok and Boardman and Traveler's Insurance, HR coordinated and facilitated a day long Safety Summit. The Summit provided department heads and supervisors with an overview of the goals of the risk management program and covered topics such as worker's compensation law, work place injuries, management of current injuries, and prevention of future occurrences. A similar summit will be developed and made available to all employees throughout the city in the coming year.

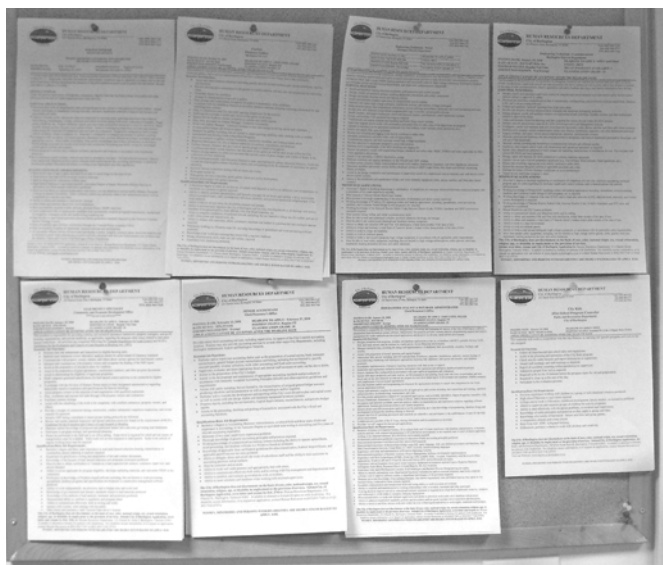
#### **Retirement Office Highlights**

The mission of the Retirement Board is to be trustees of the funds of the retirement system. The members have the authority to invest funds, determine asset allocation within guidelines, develop the guidelines, and hire such managers and consultants as may be needed. Members also set policy, have the responsibility for the proper operation of the retirement system, and make decisions on disability applications and follow-ups. The members of the Board are:

James Strouse, Robert Hooper and Donald Horenstein, appointed by the City Council; CAO Jonathan Leopold (ex-officio); Thomas Middleton, Asst. Fire Marshal and Sgt. John C. Lewis, elected by the Class "A" employees; and Kenneth Trombley and Paul Paquette, elected by the Class "B" employees.

The Board's main area of focus has been the transfer of the Plan Assets to the Vermont Pension Investment Committee, as directed by the City Council. The goal is that a higher return will be achieved at reduced cost. The Board voted to retain and oversee 10% of the total BERS fund and is examining Asset Class Alternatives to complement the VPIC portfolio in order to further enhance return.

The market value of plan assets as of 3/31/2008 was \$119,269,941.00. The plan's performance for the one year, three year and since 12/2001 periods ending March 31st was -1.5%, 7.5% and 5.6% respectively. There remains concern that the plan assets continue to be less than the plan actuarial liabilities. At the time of this writing there are 820 active members of the Retirement System, 422 retirees and beneficiaries, and 356 members who have left service with vested benefits. Pension benefits average \$570,000 per month.



Job board at the HR Department

## Annual Financial Report 2008

# Fletcher Free Library

The Fletcher Free Library serves the evolving educational and cultural needs of the Greater Burlington community. Our library offers a welcoming place for people to gather and learn. A trained staff helps patrons locate the materials and information they need for work and pleasure. Our Board of Commissioners are: Philip Baruth, Deb Barnum, Sarah Cohen, Deborah Emerson, Rebecca Goldberg, Doug Montgomery, Co-Chair, Anne Nixon, Amelia Schlossberg, Michael Schultz, Chair, Linda Severance-Smith, and Lajiri Van Ness-Otunnu.

### Highlights of a Busy and Successful Year

- Our usage statistics continue to climb – this year the total number of books checked out and the number of people using the Library building were our highest numbers ever!
- Completion of the Library's latest long range plan, developed by the Library Co-Directors with help and input from the staff, library consultant Lawrence Webster, and from a diverse Community Planning Committee comprised of Burlington residents that met in spring 2007.
- This year's Summer Reading Program was an all-time record-breaker, with 1190 Burlington children taking part at the Library building or at outreach sites around the City. The program was helped by a generous \$5,000 grant from Burlington-based Dwight Asset Management Group.
- In May 2008, the Library celebrated the 10th anniversary of the release of "Like the Birdies Sing," the first of a series of 3 sing-along CDs released along with the Library's regular sing-along programs. The project has raised more than \$25,000 to help the Library pay for special programs. The production of a fourth sing-along CD is in process.
- Thank you to IBM of Essex Junction for donating 16 desktop computers. Since 2001, IBM has donated 56 desktop PC's and 20 laptops to the Library. IBM has been a vital partner with us in solving "Digital Divide" and computer literacy issues in our community. The Library helps

people apply for jobs, write resumes, and brush up on their computer skills. Our public access Computer Center had over 60,000 users in the past year!

- In December 2007, the Fletcher Free began offering classes for individuals in the Burlington community who are working towards gaining U.S. citizenship. During the past two years, the Library has provided programs for area residents from 51 different countries!
- Capital funds from the City budget were used to clean the Library's HVAC system this year, resulting in a healthier building for everyone.
- For more than 5 years the Library has benefited from volunteer time contributed by the Community Service program at Champlain College. Last year, more than 20 Champlain volunteers worked in our busy public access Computer Center.
- The Library's outreach department successfully applied for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the Library's Outreach/ESL VISTA position.
- In February 2008 the Library acquired new shelving for much-needed storage purchased with about \$15,000 in development "impact fees." Impact fees also funded a new fire door with a keyless entry system in the rear of the Carnegie building.



**Robert Resnik,  
Amber Collins,  
and  
Robert Coleburn**  
Co-Directors





*City of Burlington, Vermont*

## Fletcher Free Library continued

### LIBRARY FACTS (FY 07-08)

Number of items  
in the Fletcher  
Free Library's  
collection

**FY 07: 131,270**  
**FY 08: 135,963**

Library  
cardholders

**FY 07: 14,066**  
**FY 08: 14,264**

Hours of opera-  
tion per week

**FY 07: 65**  
**FY 08: 65**

Number of  
special programs  
offered

**FY 07: 355**  
**FY 08: 462**

Number of out-  
reach deliveries

**FY 07: 332**  
**FY 08: 400**

Number of items  
checked out  
and/or renewed

**FY 07: 338,314**  
**FY 08: 360,197**

### Partnerships

The Burlington branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom held a series of events in the Library to celebrate Women's History Month. The popular First Wednesday Lecture Series is presented in tandem with the Vermont Council on the Humanities. Other partnerships this year include: Connections, a collaborative book delivery program with the Burlington high school and middle school libraries; the Library's continuing role in the Burlington Book Festival; and another edition of "Welcome Baby," a program for new parents co-produced with the Visiting Nurses Association. Special thanks to Bicycle Planner Nicole Losch and the equipment maintenance crew at DPW, who helped the Library acquire a new bike rack for only \$50. The DPW equipment crew agreed to donate their labor, saving the City the cost of installing a new bike rack that would have totaled over \$1,200!

### Youth Department Focuses on Expanding Services to Teens

A number of successful grant applications, managed by our Youth Librarians and by our wonderful Youth VISTA worker Cara Lovell, have allowed the youth department to start many programs for teens this year.

A grant from Young Adult Library Services Associations provided funds for videogame tournaments, along with a generous private donation for gaming equipment. Two grants have also jumpstarted teen book clubs. The Vermont Community Foundation gave \$4,000 and the Paul Post Fund gave \$1,000 to encourage young people to discuss books. Participants are given their own copies of the books to read over the month and discuss in the group. Vermont authors Geof Hewitt, Erik Esckilsen, Tanya Lee Stone, and Doug Wilhelm have all visited the Library to talk about the books the group has read.

A Teen Advisory Board was formed during this year to weigh in on what books should be ordered for the Teen Area and what programs would be most successful. They have also painted parts of the Teen Area, created displays, sorted donations for a book drive, and more.

Teen volunteers have served as role models at the Summer Reading Program



reporting station. This past summer, we had 15 teen volunteers provide over 150 hours of service. Some teens will continue to develop their skills in working with children by leading story and song programs twice a month at the library.

Finally, digital literacy has extended to teaching teens and young people basic programming tools. Several classes have used Scratch and Blender, free software, to introduce teens to programming their own games and animations on the computer.

### The Invaluable Friends of Our Library

Once again, the Friends of the Fletcher Free Library organized and managed the Library's Used Book Sale this year, raising about \$9000 to help fund Library programs and services. The Friends also continued their successful Booked For Lunch series and inaugurated a new project: The Book Stall, the Friends' library store, which is located directly across from the main circulation desk. Other Friends funding projects this year included:

- The lease and maintenance of the Library's public copy machine;
- Entertaining our sister city librarians from Yaroslavl, Russia when they visited Burlington this year;
- Honoraria for the Library's Children's Author Series;
- Costs for the Library's First Wednesday Speaker Series;
- Helping to fund new carpeting for the Library's Teen Area; and
- Costs of temporary custodial help from the State Department of Corrections.



### Looking Forward

- Plans are underway for a new remote server for the Library's computer system, allowing the Library to increase system security with less hardware.
- In fall 2008, a new paved walkway on the east side of the building and a brick path on a much-traveled shortcut across the Library lawn will be installed.
- We plan to expand our community outreach this year by offering more programs in the neighborhoods to compliment "virtual" Library services currently available on the Library's website.

### Special "Thank You":

We would like to express special appreciation to long-time Library custodian Doug Chamberlain, who moved into a new job in the Library's technical services department and to long-time volunteer Gigi Weisman, who has been performing for Library sing-along's and outreach programs for more than ten years. Thank you as well to: Ted Horton, a Fletcher Free volunteer and IBM employee who has taught the Library's popular Intro to Windows and Excel computer workshops for years; Deb Lashman, who stepped down this year after chairing the Board of Commissioners since 2003; and outreach librarian Barbara Shatara, who has served faithfully as the Library's staff representative on the Library Board for the past three years.



### LIBRARY FACTS (FY 07-08)

Interlibrary loan transactions

**FY 07: 2,243**

**FY 08: 2,566**

Total volunteer hours

**FY 07: 9,382**

**FY 08: 10,885**

Adult & Youth reference questions asked

**FY 07: 31,172**

**FY 08: 28,695**

Total annual visits (counted at the Library's front door)

**FY 07: 251,258**

**FY 08: 253,063**

Number of people using the Computer Centers

**FY 07: 65,982**

**FY 08: 65,400**

Number of people using Wi-Fi access within the Library

**FY 07: 7,099**

**FY 08: 9,942**



*City of Burlington, Vermont*

## **Parks & Recreation Department**

During the past year, Parks and Recreation continued to focus on its mission of providing high quality recreation programs and events and managing our system of parks, public trees, cemeteries and the Burlington harbor for the use and enjoyment of residents and visitors.

The following highlights are among the many issues addressed by the Department:

- Moran Plant Redevelopment – the Department participated in many public meetings and planning sessions to help shape the vision for the project and is excited with the prospect for improved infrastructure at the northern end of Waterfront Park.
- Conversion of Armory to Community Recreation Center – Commission Chair John Ewing led a group of citizens to develop a creative approach to the renovation and operation of the Armory as an affordable community recreation center. With the plan approved by the Mayor and City Council, private fundraising efforts were undertaken by Commissioner Ewing. Local developer Bobby Miller's generosity and expertise are allowing this project to go forward in early FY09 at considerable savings.
- Capital Needs for Parks – as the request of the Commission, staff prepared a summary of the capital needs for the park system, which has capital assets of \$40 million. The Commission believes that more capital funding for these important assets must be identified and will continue discussions with the Administration and City Council as to how this can best be accomplished.
- After School Programs – considerable discussion with the Burlington School District about after school opportunities for our youth led to a collaborative pilot program at Flynn Elementary School in the 2008-2009 school year. The pilot consolidates the City Kids program and the District's enrichment programs into one after school offering under the child care license and administrative structure of Parks and Recreation. The goal has been to design a program that can serve more participants and operate in a more efficient manner.



**Wayne E. Gross, C.L.P.**  
Director

- FY08 Budget – based on preliminary numbers it appears that the Department has again done a good job of managing an operating budget of more than \$4 million, with 75% of direct operating expenses covered through non-tax revenue.
- With the numerous additional responsibilities being assigned to the Department, considerable discussion regarding restructuring took place this year. There is a need to finalize a plan in the near future.

The following are goals that the Department wishes to address during FY09:

- Completing a reorganization plan that addresses the management of the many new responsibilities that have been assigned to the Department.
- Updating the Department's Long-Range Plan.
- Pursuing a source of capital funding for parks.
- Evaluating opportunities for revenue enhancement and department operation efficiencies.
- Promoting professional staff development.
- Continued development of beneficial partnerships between the Department and various community organizations and the private sector.
- Incorporating sustainable decisions into Department operations.

### **Paquette Arena at Leddy Park**

- Hosted the Theatre on Ice competition in conjunction with Vermont Childrens Theatre on Ice, featuring 30 teams and over 500 competitors from all over the U.S.
- Provided "home ice" for Burlington and Colchester boys and girls high school hockey teams, BAHA youth hockey, Vermont Glades junior hockey team, the expanded Glades Youth hockey program as well as Full Stride hockey leagues, Green Mountain Avalanche leagues and numerous private groups.
- Hosted the annual Burchard and Beech high school hockey tournaments, as well as a Full Stride spring women's tournament, two Green Mountain Avalanche select tournaments, a BAHA multi-level tournament and the BAHA Mite Jamboree.
- Offered popular "Toddler Time" introductory clinics.



- Hosted a unique October wedding when a pair of skating enthusiasts rented out the entire facility for the night to celebrate their nuptials.
- Partnered with VNA Family Room to offer free weekly Itty Bitty Public Skating to 15 new non-English speaking pre-school children.
- Renovations made to the front entry way.
- Hosted the year end Ice Show, "Magical Musicals, Broadway on Ice," featuring over 150 skaters from Parks & Recreation group lessons, Champlain Valley Skating Club, Ice Crystals Synchronized Skating Team, Vermont Children's Theatre on Ice and On Thin Ice adult theatre troupe.

### **Park Operations and Maintenance**

- Provided custodial services and building maintenance to City Hall, Firehouse Center for the Visual Arts and the Police Department.
- Continued to work with volunteers to oversee the operation and maintenance of two off leash dog areas.
- Worked with the Vermont Corrections Department to provide opportunities for restitution and court diversion work throughout the park system and other City facilities.
- Provided and maintained athletic fields for numerous youth and adult sports leagues.
- Initiated a recycling program at Memorial Auditorium, City Hall Park, Waterfront Park, Community Boathouse and the North Beach Campground and Beach area.
- Continued to host dozens of special events throughout the city including the Vermont City Marathon, Green Mountain Chew Chew, Brewer's Festival, Kid's Day, and Independence Day Celebration.
- Facilitated the construction of new team dugouts at the Leddy Park softball field as part of an Eagle Scout project by Evan Bean.
- Continued to install and maintain outdoor skating facilities at Battery, Calahan, Roosevelt, Starr Farm, and Skate Parks.
- Hosted a number of large events at Memorial Auditorium including World Wrestling Entertainment, First Night

- Burlington, Government Mule, The Tragically Hip, B.B. King, Go, Diego, Go!, 311, the USAF Band, VJBjj Mixed Martial Arts tournament, and Vermont Golden Gloves Boxing tournament.
- Provided facility support at Memorial Auditorium for several Parks and Recreation programs, including After School basketball, 242 Main Rock & Roll Camp and Vermont Ballet Theatre recitals.
- Hosted nine Vermont Frost Heaves home games at Memorial Auditorium.
- Rented dance and exercise facilities at the Memorial Loft to a full range of community groups and individuals.

### **Recreation**

- Burlington Area Community Gardens Program was bursting at the seams with all 9 sites and nearly 380 plots rented this past year.
- Our partnership with the University of Vermont PCom Consulting program through the office of Community University Partnership & Service Learning (CUPS) continues to flourish through their extensive involvement with the Burlington Winter Festival.
- The Burlington Bocce Club coordinated three community tournaments and sponsored Bocce Socials Sunday afternoons during the summer.
- Our summer day camp, Champ Camp, continues to be popular with Burlington residents and remains affordable due to financial support from the State of Vermont. Participation increased in 2008 to 816 "camper weeks" from 644 in 2007.





*City of Burlington, Vermont*

## **Parks & Recreation Department** continued

- New Adult Programming, including several dance classes such as Tap and Clogging. Attendance in our Yoga programs doubled over the previous year.
- 242 Main Teen Club had a very successful After School Music program with 30 youth participating three days per week throughout the school year.
- Our Independence Day Celebration was again successful with sponsorship support of the Fireworks by the Chittenden Bank, Pomerleau Agency and the Antonio & Rita Pomerleau Foundation.
- grade Basketball Tournament. Our OWN Burlington Bulls defeated the Burlington Pacers in the championship game. Special thank you to sponsor O'Neill, Kellner & Green!
- Playmobile was in full swing this past summer thanks to a Federal Grant and 2 FUN-cilitator staff. This NEW traveling activity mobile offered over 1200 youth hands on recreation, larger than life games, arts and crafts, team building activities and sports.



- The Barnes Summer World Academy combined morning academics and afternoon recreation. This new program was the outgrowth of a successful collaboration with the Sarah Holbrook Community Center, Burlington School District and the State of Vermont. This program was supported with private fundraising.
- Summer Playground/Nutrition programs continue to be offered in 3 locations across the City. Funding for this program is all privately fundraised.
- New this past year was an offering of "Itty Bitty Basketball."
- We hosted the 2nd Annual Champlain Valley Recreation Association 5th and 6th

### **Conservation Legacy Program**

- Partnered with the DREAM program to educate youth at Franklin Square about the Mt. Calvary Red Maple Wetland.
- Trail work completed at Mt. Calvary Red Maple Wetland.
- Launched an Invasive Plant Species Identification and Removal Program with support from The Nature Conservancy and the Wise on Weeds Program.
- Continued to monitor and maintain trails systems throughout Burlington's natural areas and parks.
- Oversaw Friends of Ethan Allen Park and Tower and supported activities for Green-Up Day in the Park and Tower.





- Continued to support and promote the TowerKeepers program, a volunteer group responsible for locking and unlocking the Ethan Allen Tower.
- Supported neighbors in their efforts to create Friends of Champlain Park and gardening efforts by King Street Youth Center.
- Continued efforts to identify and select sites that should be preserved due to their natural features.
- Continued to support and coordinate an Intervale Safety Committee with Burlington Police Department, Gardener's Supply Company, Intervale Center and Burlington Electric Department.
- \$75,000 allocated from the Conservation Legacy Fund to conserve 3.02 acres abutting Centennial Woods in November 2007. Matching funds came from VHCB and UVM.
- Purchased 20 acres of natural area from B.E.D., as part of the Intervale land sale.

### **Trees and Greenways**

- Planted 128 street and park trees utilizing volunteers and contractual services.
- Removed 66 dead and hazardous trees and 55 stumps, and pruned 1,700 street and park trees.
- Fertilized 270 street, cemetery and park trees.
- Sponsored Arbor Day activities at three of Burlington's elementary schools
- Received the Tree City USA award from the National Arbor Day Foundation for the 14th consecutive year.
- Coordinated and assisted Branch Out Burlington! in the implementation of the following projects:
  - Planted 110 trees in the Burlington Community Nursery..
  - Organized a Summer Tree Walk on and around the Burlington waterfront.
- Continued All America Selections Flower Display Garden at Waterfront Park – a collaborative project with UVM Extension.

### **Capital Projects**

- Received grant from the VTrans for improvements to Battery Park Extension from the upper fountain plaza to the lower plaza. Coordinated with DPW,

- improvements included a concrete walkway, new lighting and landscaping.
- Completed the dredging of the boat slip basin at Perkins Pier and installed a new dock system.
- Completed conceptual designs and cost estimates for renovation of the main parking lot and a new maintenance building at Leddy Park.
- Completed a conceptual design and cost estimates for renovations to the Community Boathouse.
- Completed installation of pavers at the center circle at Battery Park, and installed a sand volleyball court in the park.
- Installed a new and expanded playground in the picnic area at North Beach.
- Installed playground equipment at Schmanska and Baird Parks.
- Replaced 15 picnic grills and 25 picnic tables in the park system.
- Repaired and resurfaced sections on the RT127 bike path.
- Worked with "Circles for Peace" to help complete the Burlington Earth Clock at Oakledge Park.
- Assisting a volunteer group, Friends of South End Baseball, in the conversion of the softball field at Calahan Park into a youth baseball field.
- Continued with the planning process for the renovation of the Gosse Court Armory into a Community Recreation Center.
- Installed a new floor in a restroom building and new campsite fire rings at North Beach campground.





*City of Burlington, Vermont*

## Department of Planning and Zoning



**David E. White, AICP**  
Director

The Department of Planning and Zoning is responsible for comprehensive land use and development planning across the city and administration of the City's land development regulations. Department staff facilitates the preparation of long-range land use plans including the city's Municipal Development Plan and other plans; conducts special studies and inventories; and researches and drafts amendments to city ordinances. The Department also administers all permitting and development review functions under the City's zoning and subdivision regulations, and collaborates closely with Public Works and the Code Enforcement Office in the administration of other related city codes. The Department serves as an important resource to the City Council and Mayor, other city departments and commissions, neighborhood and community groups, and the public.

The Department's work is guided by a 7-member volunteer Planning Commission appointed by the City Council that meets twice monthly to formulate land use and development policy and regulations. Another 25 citizen volunteers actively participate in the planning process as members of the Development Review Board, Design Advisory Board and Conservation Board to implement the City's land use and development regulations. All of these volunteers dedicate hundreds of hours of their time and expertise to the improvement of the City of Burlington.

Fiscal Year 2008 brought many changes, challenges, and opportunities. Here are just a few highlights:

### **Record Breaking Year for Development Review and Permitting**

In FY08, a total of 952 zoning applications and determination requests were accepted by the Department representing a 14% increase from the previous year and the greatest number of applications accepted since computerized recordkeeping began eighteen years ago. FY08 zoning permit activity included:

- A total estimated construction cost of \$111,162,492, including 102 new residential units - a 15% increase from the previous year.

- 824 applications and determinations were reviewed administratively of which 99% were approved. 7 administrative decisions were appealed to the Development Review Board (DRB).
- 100 applications were reviewed by the DRB of which 82% were approved. 13 DRB decisions (14%) were appealed to the Vermont Environmental Court.

### **Completion and Implementation of the Zoning Re-Write**

FY08 saw the completion of the much-anticipated Zoning Re-write. Department staff worked closely with City Councilors in considering some 50 amendments from the Planning Commission's original recommendation, and seeing the final ordinance through to adoption in January 2008. Since that time, staff has been working with the Commission and Council to address a number of outstanding issues including institutional development and planned unit development. The new Comprehensive Development Ordinance (CDO) is available in hardcopy and on CD, or online on the Department's website at [www.ci.burlington.vt.us/planning](http://www.ci.burlington.vt.us/planning).

### **Stormwater Management Program**

The Mayor's Stormwater Taskforce, led by Laurie Adams of the Department of Public Works and Scott Gustin of the Department of Planning & Zoning, has devoted hundreds of hours over many months to understanding the deficiencies of the City's current approach and researching national best practices. The Taskforce has designed a comprehensive program that improves the City's existing regulatory framework and processes, provides incentives for reducing impervious surfaces and improving onsite stormwater management, and provides financial and administrative resources to ensure that the City can effectively implement the program.

### **Climate Action Plan Revision**

Working in collaboration with the Legacy Project, Department staff has begun to organize a revision to the City's 2000 Climate Action Plan (CAP). Planning and Legacy staff has prepared an inventory of the city's



greenhouse gas emissions, and invited citizens to join seven workgroups to establish initiatives and actions to reduce the city's emissions. The Mayor formed a team of City staff, the Burlington Sustainability Action Team (BSAT), to address climate change more specifically within City operations. For more information about this project you can visit: [www.cedo.ci.burlington.vt.us/legacy](http://www.cedo.ci.burlington.vt.us/legacy)

### **Historic Preservation Grants**

The Department administers the city's Certified Local Government Program (CLG) for historic preservation planning under an agreement with the National Park Service and the VT Division for Historic Preservation. This program provides some federal funding for historic preservation-related projects along with an opportunity to actively participate in the review of federally assisted development for potential impacts on historic and cultural resources.

The Department and non-profit housing representatives partnered in an effort to create a Multiple Property Documentation (MPDF) listing to the National Register of Historic Places for Multi-Unit Worker Housing in Burlington. The MPDF will be used to nominate and register any thematically-related historic properties, streamlining an effort to both recognize and document the historic significance of specific types of dwellings. Listing on the National Register also makes available financial resources and tax credits for the rehabilitation of these structures.

The Department has also been working to complete a Historic Sites and Structures Survey for the Five Sisters Neighborhood. A total of 224 properties were surveyed, of which 202 are considered contributing historic resources.

### **Information System Management**

The City's Application Management and Data Automation (AMANDA) system is integral to managing the Department's zoning review process. AMANDA is accessible by other City departments for the monitoring zoning permits, building permits, Code Enforcement activity, and land transfers in a single system organized by property. Department staff maintains the property data-

base component of AMANDA, and provide technical support for all participating departments using the system. Daily reports regarding permit activity are available on the Department's website.

Planning and Zoning staff also maintain the City's Geographic Information System (GIS) working in collaboration with DPW and the City's IT department. A GIS allows users to analyze, view, and interpret information in a way that helps to reveal spatial relationships, patterns, and trends.

During the past fiscal year, several base layers were updated including roads, surface water, railroad tracks, public lands, and tax parcels. The GIS was also used for revising zoning districts, supporting elections, the stormwater management program, property development, fire response analysis, zoning administration, comprehensive planning, and inventory of the City's water distribution system. Finally, GIS software and network have been upgraded to increase access by City employees, and a series of web-based mapping applications are planned.

### **Changing Faces – New and Old**

David White, AICP, the Department's former Comprehensive Planner for the past 12 years, was selected as the new Director of Planning and Zoning in July. Sandrine Thibault, AICP, also started in February as the Department's new Comprehensive Planner.





*City of Burlington, Vermont*

## Burlington Police Department

### Overview

As a vision, mission and values based organization we remain committed to community policing and problem solving, specifically our mission: "Policing with the citizens of Burlington to achieve a safe, healthy and self reliant community."

The past year brought on many changes and challenges for the Burlington Police Department. Chief Thomas R. Tremblay retired after almost 25 years of service to the citizens of Burlington to become Commissioner of Public Safety for the State of Vermont. Lifelong Burlington resident Michael E. Schirling was appointed as the City's 25th Chief of Police following a selection process led by Mayor Bob Kiss and Police Commission Chair Jerome O'Neil.



**Michael E. Schirling**  
Chief

### Chief's Message

Each day our staff delivers high quality emergency response, investigation, and a wide range of services and problem solving to the community. Annually, the 100 officers and 36 civilian personnel respond to and support approximately 38,000 calls for service, 30,000 incidents, and conduct 3,000 criminal investigations. In addition, we handle all emergency communication for police, fire, and rescue operations throughout the city, and provide additional services such as coordination of the Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations, the Vermont Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, city-wide parking enforcement, and security operations for the Burlington International Airport.

During this fiscal year, the Department achieved a fully balanced budget during FY08. We were successful in holding budget growth for the coming year (FY09) to 3% with little impact to core services.

Milestones, new initiatives and projects we undertook during the past year include:

- Continued work in the area of reducing violence against women and children;
- A conviction in the tragedy of Michelle Gardner-Quinn;
- Renewed focus on street level drug interventions in our neighborhoods and downtown;
- The creation of a central point of operations for the Vermont Internet Crimes

Against Children Task Force – now housed at Burlington PD with funding from the U.S. Department of Justice. This effort was recognized in August of 2008 with a visit by Senator Patrick Leahy and FBI Director Robert Mueller;

- Completion of the refit of police headquarters at 1 North Avenue with focus on energy efficiency and low maintenance construction. This refit includes a significantly larger community space for meetings, training, and other community activities;
- Expanded services to victims of crime in partnership with Burlington's Community Justice Center via the Parallel Justice Project.

As we complete our tenth year using our current community policing model, in 2009 we'll look to the future with a community-wide re-assessment of our policing strategies and a re-commitment to the successful strategies of community policing that have guided us through the past decade.

I am very fortunate to have an outstanding police leadership team throughout the organization. I would like to thank Mayor Bob Kiss and the Burlington Police Commission for their guidance and encouragement through the past year. Most importantly, on behalf of the women and men of the Burlington Police Department, we thank you, the citizens of Burlington, for your partnership and support as we work together to make Burlington great. You have our commitment to continue our tireless efforts to ensure that Burlington remains one of the most vibrant and livable cities in the nation. It is truly an honor to serve as Chief of Police.

### Administrative Services Bureau: Deputy Chief Walter Decker

During the last year the Administrative Services Bureau continued to provide service to our community in the respective units of our Department: Communications, Detectives, Facilities, Parking Enforcement, Records, and Training & Recruitment. Our Detectives focused largely on neighborhood drug interdiction and enforcement,



while also successfully investigating several major crimes. Computer related crime, and the proliferation of digital media having evidentiary value in other investigations, continues to expand the roles of our investigators.

We continued to research and administer a wide range of training for employees of our Department to include our continued emphasis on cultural competency and bias free policing. Our Department was recognized as being the only police force in the State with a 100% attendance rate for instruction on interacting with persons with disabilities, and we were exemplified for best practices on a recent use of force report generated by the Vermont Attorney General's Office.

The Parking Enforcement and Communications units interact with hundreds of citizens each day as a direct "front line" of service to our community. The staff works around the clock to provide service and help resolve problems by directing needed resources to our businesses and neighborhoods.

Recruiting remains the number one priority for the future of our agency. Our Department has been recognized nationally for its innovative application of Community Policing. That accomplishment and continued emphasis is dependent upon having a vital and forward-thinking police force based on community service. We continue to reach out to members of our community to consider a career in this noble and satisfying line of work.

### **Operations Bureau: Deputy Chief Andi Higbee**

Recently we have begun to refocus our efforts to provide the best services we possibly can by identifying what we have termed "consistency in expectations and best practices" in our operational services to the community. To meet the demands and challenges presented with each day, we rely on a highly-qualified and committed staff and management team. In the last year, several promotions have taken place including: Andi Higbee to Deputy Chief; Bruce Bovat to Lieutenant; Shawn Burke and Janine Wright to Sergeant.

During the fall and spring we continued

to build on our quality of life programs. Partnering with UVM and Champlain, proactive student education has created awareness of the ordinances and of our response when necessary. Also involved in this effort are Code Enforcement, UVM Police Services, and the Fire Marshal. Volunteers in Policing help greatly in obtaining information from complainants following reports of noise.

Using mediation or other dispute resolution, the Division's Community Support Program fosters communication and resolves disputes. The Program encourages partnerships between the Burlington Police Department and neighborhood residents and is a model that encourages communication. The Program is a valuable resource for officers to de-escalate conflicts before a crime is committed.



Cpl. Trent Martin and K9 Capone at their VPA Graduation



Cpl. Bonnie Beck at our Turkey Drive for the Food Shelf



*City of Burlington, Vermont*

## **Burlington Police Department** continued

The Parks Patrol had a very successful year maintaining services in our parks, the bike path, and on the Marketplace. Eight Parks Patrol employees were charged with educating the public on City Ordinances and park rules in order to maintain a safe, clean and healthy environment for all who visited. The Parks Patrol personnel were highly visible and although not sworn police officers, they were an extra set of "eyes and ears" for us.

A host of employees were duly recognized during the Annual Recognition Luncheon sponsored by the Burlington Rotary Club for either their heroic actions or continuous exemplary performance. A list of the awards presented can be found on our website, listed below.

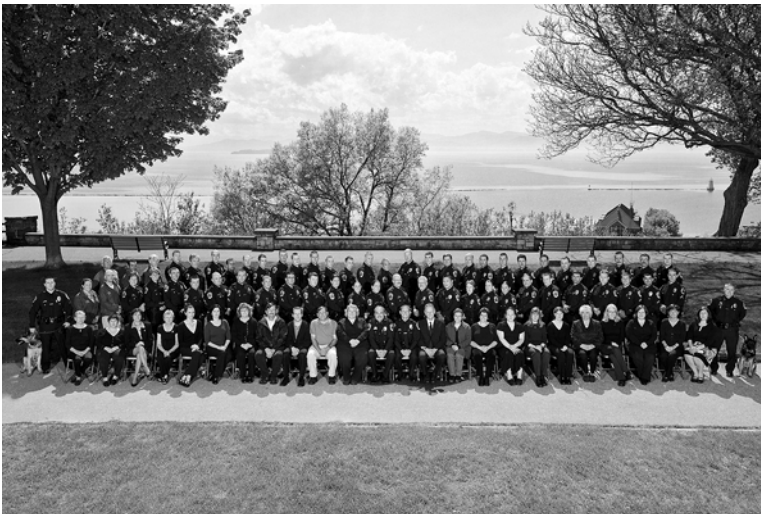
In May 2008, two permanent memorials were unveiled during the Burlington Police Department General Roll Call that recognized the supreme sacrifice made by fallen Officers James W. McGrath, end of watch May 12, 1904, and J. Albert Fisher, end of watch December 15, 1947. Both the McGrath and Fisher families were on hand for the dedication. The memorial plaques, made of granite, are on display at Headquarters.

Our K9 Unit is responsible for tracking lost or missing people as well as fugitives. Additionally, as a drug detection tool, they support our efforts in drug eradication. FY 2008 was a year of new beginnings for our Police K9 Unit. Corporal Wade Labrecque and Police K9 Andre were selected and



trained as a patrol and drug detection K9 team. Handled by Corporal Thomas Radford, Police K9 Stoney retired this year after a highly decorated career with this organization. The retirement of K9 Stoney paved the way for his replacement, Police K9 Capone.

For more information about the Burlington Police Department, we invite you to visit our website: [www.bpdvt.org](http://www.bpdvt.org)



Police Memorial Event, May 15, 2008

## Department of Public Works

Take a drink of water or wash your clothes; take a walk on a sidewalk; drive to the store on a public street; put out your recyclables; park downtown; flush your toilet. These are all services provided by your Public Works Department, which manages the backbone infrastructure of the city. Not surprisingly, this infrastructure is usually taken for granted, which is as it should be. Thanks to the hard work of DPW's many employees, these basic systems work all day every day. And when there's a problem, Public Works employees fix it.

### Water & Wastewater Division

Our Water & Wastewater Division delivers potable water to your tap and cleans the wastewater prior to discharge into the Winooski River and Lake Champlain. These services represent almost half of DPW's total expenditures. The funds come from ratepayers and from services provided to others so there is no burden on the property tax. With respect to the Water side, operating expenditures rose 8.5% last year. Despite the increase, when adjusted for inflation, expenses were actually 6.3% lower than in FY 2004. In the Wastewater program, operating expenditures declined by 1.4% last year. When adjusted for inflation, these expenses were almost 6.7% lower than in FY 2005.

### Addressing the Water System's Capital Needs

The Water Division and the Engineering Group recently completed a 30 year Capital Plan. Key personnel from the treatment plant, distribution system, and Fire Department were interviewed to determine deficiencies in treatment, storage, and distribution systems. Inspections were performed to confirm the findings and a summary of risk assessment and cost estimates was prepared for the water system's capital needs. The vast majority of work needs to be done in the water distribution system. The system is comprised of 110 miles of water mains ranging in size from 2 inches to 24 inches in diameter with the oldest pipe installed around 1872. The Plan provides a timeline and estimates the cost at about \$30 million over 30 years. With this information, we can move to planning and budget-

ing. The Water Division will be paying off some capital debt in the near future which may make funds available for these capital improvements without impacting the property tax.

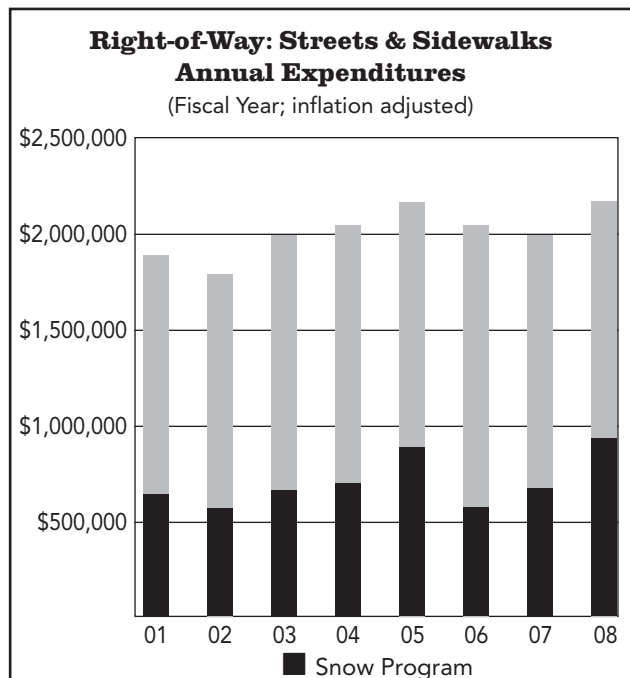
### Mayor's Stormwater Task Force

A significant amount of staff time and effort went into serving on the Mayor's Stormwater Task Force (comprised of representatives from DPW, Planning & Zoning, City Attorneys office, Conservation Board, and Code Enforcement), charged with assessing current regulations and practices as they pertain to stormwater management within the city and with producing solutions to identified deficiencies. The Task Force developed and proposed a new comprehensive stormwater ordinance for Burlington which was passed by the City Council.

The new ordinance covers a broad spectrum of issues, including: updated wastewater provisions; municipal administration of wastewater permits; and several new stormwater sections to address areas such as administration, illicit discharges, erosion control, enforcement and a fee structure to fund infrastructure improvements, stormwater education, and ordinance enforcement. DPW will be responsible for administering this important new ordinance that will help protect water quality in Lake Champlain.



**Steven Goodkind**  
Director





*City of Burlington, Vermont*

## Department of Public Works continued

### Streets & Sidewalks

Streets & Sidewalks is responsible for maintaining all road and bridge structures in the City's public right-of-way. This includes salting, sanding and snow plowing, street sweeping, patching potholes, street resurfacing, utility cut repairs, guardrails, and



storm response. The Division is also responsible for the repair and replacement of sanitary and storm sewers as well as sidewalk and ramp projects funded under the Street Capital Improvement Program (see below).

There are 96 miles of public streets in Burlington and 150 miles of sidewalks. Street maintenance is funded by a portion of the dedicated street tax, excavation fees, and the General Fund. Adjusted for inflation, expenditures in FY08 increased after declining for the previous two years, and were comparable to expenditures in FY05.

Street and sidewalk maintenance in a densely populated city in the Northeast is as much an art as a science. Variables include weather, the age, and condition of the roads and sidewalks, traffic, parked cars, the number of available staff, the extent of their experience and training, and the quality of the equipment.

### Capital Improvement Program

In 2000, Burlington voters approved a four cent increase in the dedicated tax for long-term street paving and sidewalk replacement. The tax also pays for the local share

(2%) of major road projects, capital improvements to the Bike path and crosswalks; and traffic calming. The Capital Improvement Program is funded from the dedicated street tax (just over 7 cents per \$100 value), plus revenues from excavation fees. And beginning in FY07, the City allocated a large portion of the funds from its capital budget for repaving neighborhood streets. The additional funding has allowed substantial increases in paving.

However program revenues are not enough to keep up with an aging and deteriorating infrastructure. Therefore, in 2008 the City initiated and the City Council approved two ballot items to increase the money available for street work (a \$5.5 million bond for immediate needs and a 2.0 cent increase in the dedicated tax going forward). Voters overwhelmingly supported both questions on the November 2008 ballot.

Each year, DPW re-paves an average of about two miles of new pavement. The streets are selected based on the condition of the road and the volume of traffic. Although the funding is usually consistent, the amount of new pavement varies based on the extent of reconstruction required and the width of the right of way. On average, DPW reconstructs almost two miles of sidewalks each year. At the current rate, it will take 67 years to replace all 150 miles of our sidewalks, though the new ones are only expected to last 50 years. DPW is hopeful that the recent increase in the dedicated tax will help ensure that all the sidewalks are replaced before they exceed their normal lifespan.

### Snow Removal

DPW's snow removal fleet includes 17 plows and trucks of varying sizes and 10 sidewalk tractors. Even with all this, it takes 5-7 hrs to plow the streets once; 3 hrs to salt; 6-8 hrs to plow sidewalks; 14-18 hrs to snow blow sidewalks; and 8-12 hrs to sand sidewalks. To some extent, year to year variations in the Snow Plowing budget reflect annual weather conditions. In addition to more labor, equipment maintenance costs rise in years with substantial snow.

The program is funded primarily with





property taxes. There are 39,000 people in Burlington and just over 10,000 taxable properties so the average cost is \$19 per person or \$73 per property. In response to growing expectations by citizens, DPW has increased its snow plowing activities. As a result, no city of comparable size in New England spends as much effort on sidewalks as Burlington does.

**Street Cleaning**

DPW's Street Sweeping operation aims at the accumulated sand, dirt, other debris and chemicals on our streets that can end up in Lake Champlain and pollute the Lake. Street sweeping occurs on each street approximately three times from June to September, plus Spring and Fall cleanups of heavy debris. The volume of debris collected is substantial. Each year, Public Works crews removed approximately 1,100 yards of debris, estimated at 1,650 tons of material. Street cleaning is not only a quality of life issue, but essential to a cleaner environment.

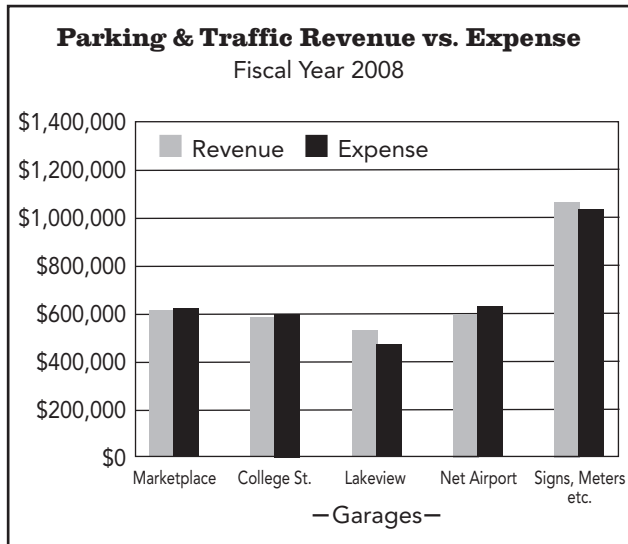
**Parking & Traffic Divisions**

Parking and Traffic is responsible for all public parking in the city and at the airport, as well as traffic lights, signs, and crossing guards. Excluding the Waterfront, the Parking division maintains 2,938 parking spaces downtown, including three garages, on-street metered parking, and six surface lots (43% of all downtown parking). The division is funded entirely from parking revenues and receives no money from property taxes. The Traffic Division is responsible for 75 traffic signals and 95 parking ban lights throughout the City. Highlights of FY 2008 include the completion of Flynn Avenue and Shelburne Road signal reconstruction including "No Turn on Red" and Pedestrian crossing countdown signals. New signals including pedestrian crossing countdowns were installed at Ethan Allen Parkway, Ethan Allen Park Entrance, and North Avenue. It is the Department's intent to change all pedestrian signals to countdowns as intersection upgrades occur.

Fiscal year 2008 expenses exceeded revenues. To balance the FY 2009 budget, it was necessary to raise parking rates for

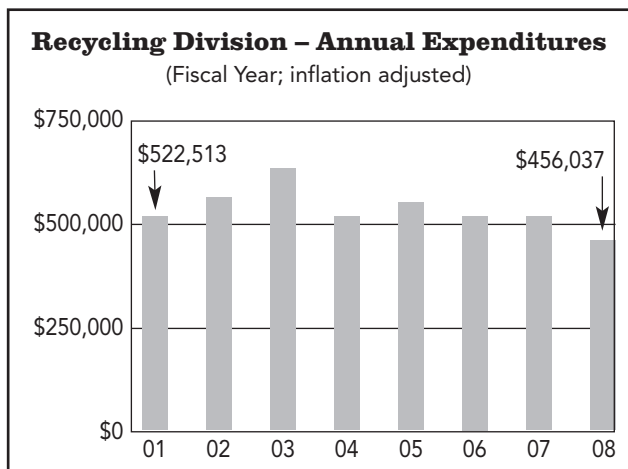
the first time in ten years. The new rates will allow us to continue investing in our facilities and infrastructure.

The Department has also changed all 2 hour meters to 3 hour meters to provide better utilization of the meters. The two hour free garage parking program continues to be successful for transient parkers and downtown businesses.



**Recycling**

DPW's recycling crews make 1,000 to 1,500 stops per day, and the total number of residential units served is over 13,000. Collected materials are transported to the Solid Waste District's Material Recovery Facility in Williston, where they are sorted, baled, and





*City of Burlington, Vermont*

## Department of Public Works continued

shipped to appropriate markets. Through the blue box program, Burlington residents recycled 3,100 tons of material last year (almost 480 pounds per household). Including commercial activity, CSWD estimates

### Parking Rate Increases

Item	From	To	Per
Parking Garages	\$5.50	\$8.00	Day
Monthly Leases – 5 day	\$70.00	\$75.00	Month
Monthly Leases – 6 day	\$80.00	\$90.00	Month
75 Early Bird Coupons	\$3.00	\$4.00	Day
All meters except 10 hour	\$0.75	\$1.00	Hour
10 hour parking meters	\$2.00	\$4.00	Day

that we divert at least 38% of our solid waste to recycling. The Recycling program also conducts the fall leaf pick-up, Christmas tree collection, and Green Up! Day collection.

The cost of the recycling program is paid from a Solid Waste Generation Tax assessed to each residential unit within the City. This tax is currently \$3.10 per month per residential unit and is collected for the City by the private trash haulers who pick up your solid waste. Businesses are required to recycle as well but they contract directly with private haulers.

### Inspection Services

DPW inspectors issue permits for new buildings, additions, alterations, repairs, demolitions, sprinkler system changes, fire alarms, fire suppression, plumbing, mechanical and electrical systems. The division is funded with revenues from inspection fees (building, plumbing, electrical & HVAC). There are only 3 inspectors and their workload has increased significantly. The number of inspections increased 79% from FY00 to FY05, but has leveled off in the last three years. Notwithstanding increased demand for services, inflation adjusted expenditures for this division are actually lower today than in FY01.

### Engineering

Engineering provides technical support for major capital projects and Development Review; design and engineering services for Water & Wastewater; performs traffic studies; manages traffic calming projects; staffs various City committees; and facilitates public participation in various department and city wide initiatives. Work in the past year includes management of several major ongoing transportation projects (such as the downtown and Waterfront access projects and Church Street improvements), the Gosse Court Armory conversion to a community and recreation center, and implementation of the City's Capital Improvement Program.



# Burlington School Department

The Burlington School District (BSD) educates about 3600 students in Vermont's largest city. We have nine schools, seventeen school buildings and serve children from pre-K through twelfth grade. BSD's mission is to engage students with a rigorous, well-rounded education by providing high-quality teaching in a 21st century learning environment. We strive to engage all students in preparation for higher education, career and civic life.

During 2007-08, the BSD continued to work closely with many partner organizations and community members to provide excellent and equitable educational opportunities for students. Several years of community conversations and planning culminated in 2007-08 in the development of a comprehensive, ten year master strategic plan, called "Excellence and Equity," to guide the District and the City in making greatly needed improvements to our schools and prepare the schools and our students for the global economy and workplace of the 21st century. The full plan and school-by-school details can be found at [www.bsdplan.com](http://www.bsdplan.com).

The District celebrated many successes and continues to play a vital role in the Burlington community during 2007-08.

In coordination with the City of Burlington's Center for Community and Neighborhoods, we are working towards a more inclusive community with a campaign called **We All Belong**. Burlington is Vermont's most diverse community, as is demonstrated below:

BSD provides high quality education to all of its students using nationally recognized instructional strategies supported by strong professional development of its teachers. BSD offered comprehensive programs including K-12 arts, physical education, health, guidance, English as a Second Language and music programs; a dozen advanced placement courses at the high school; on-line courses at the high school; special education; comprehensive extra- and co-curricular activities; and an award winning after school program. The District employs a full time diversity director to assist faculty and staff in welcoming our diverse student population and ensuring that they succeed.

## Highlights of 2007-2008

Champlain students Bastien Gliech and Eileen Kocherlakota had their original compositions selected for Opus 16, the Vermont MIDI Project celebration of exemplary work statewide. Go to [vtmidi.org/opus](http://vtmidi.org/opus) to view the selected pieces.

Congratulations to Hunt Middle School's Rich Amato, who has been named the Vermont Assistant Principal of the Year. We are grateful to Rich for his dedication and leadership and proud to see his accomplishments recognized.

Lawrence Barnes Elementary School was profiled in the national publication "Public School Insights" for community involvement and service learning as part of the partnership with Shelburne Farms sustainable schools initiative.

BHS Student Tyler Baldor took second



**Jeanné Collins**  
Superintendent

## Demographics: Burlington Has Vermont's Most Diverse Schools

Most recent data available is presented. Different dates are noted below. Sources: Burlington Schools, Vermont Department of Education, Vermont Agency of Human Services.		Burlington (2007-08 data)	Vermont (2006-07 data)
Number of students		3,570	95,481
Special Education identified		10.64%	14.30%
Dropout (Vermont data is for 2005-06 and for 9th-12th graders)		3.00%	2.85%
English as a Second Language identified		12.91%	1.40%
Number of languages spoken by students other than English		47	N/A
Qualify for free/reduced meals		40.64%	29%
Racial diversity	White	74.15%	94.33%
	Black	11.46%	1.61%
	Asian	6.44%	1.50%
	Hispanic or Latino	1.71%	1.03%
	American Indian or Alaskan	0.28%	0.42%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.08%	0.11%
	Multi-cultural	2.89%	1.00%
No race reported		1.60%	N/A



*City of Burlington, Vermont*

## **Burlington School Department** continued

place in Vermont in the UVM writing contest.

BHS Social Studies Teacher Fran Brock was accepted to the "We the People: the Citizen and the Constitution" National High School Institute at Boston University to support the design of a civics curriculum.

The 53 BHS students and advisor Dan Hagan participated in the COTS Walk raising over \$3800 and donating 449 hours of community service, and Casey Green was the driving force behind the student-led Bash for Cash, which raised \$2000 for Habitat for Humanity.

BHS Varsity Boys Basketball Team had an undefeated season and won the Division I state championship!

Molly Rugg and Emma Smithayer were National Merit Scholarship finalists.

Amaris Williams received the community-wide United Way "Hometown Hero Youth Award" for "her infectious love of reading" with children at the King Street Youth Center.

Burlington's SAT and ACT scores for 2008 exceeded Vermont's and the nation's in SAT critical reading and writing and all subject areas of the ACT. More Burlington students took these exams used for college entrance than a year ago.

Superintendent Collins was elected to serve a three-year term on the Governing Board of the American Association of School Administrators. She will help to set the policy agenda for the association.

### **Cost-Effectiveness**

For the past five years, the BSD has had the lowest or second lowest equalized tax and spending rates in Chittenden County. The spending rate has been the lowest for five years. The Burlington School District spent about \$56 million in 2007-08 to educate its students; of that, about \$14.5 million is from grants, foundations and sources other than tax dollars.

### **Improvements to the School District's Buildings and Grounds**

The City Charter allows for the spending of \$750,000 bond each year for capital projects for seventeen school buildings which range in age from 40 to 108 years old. In 2007-08, BSD was able to replace the failing roof and insulation at Hunt Middle School, complete two more walls of windows at the Edmunds complex, and replace the front steps. The wood chip boiler at the high school, completed during 2006-07, saved BSD \$70,000 in heating costs during 2007-08.

For more information about the Burlington School District, visit our website at [www.bsdtv.org](http://www.bsdtv.org) or call 802-865-5332.



*Annual Financial Report 2008*  
**Burlington Telecom**

**B**urlington Telecom (BT), a department of the City of Burlington, continues to build a Fiber to the Home network bringing fiber optic connections to the residents and businesses of Burlington. The network currently:

- Provides High Speed Symmetrical Internet Bandwidth;
- Is a state of the art cable TV service using IPTV technology and offers over 180 standard definition channels, more than 50 High Definition channels, Video On-Demand, and Digital Video Recorder service; and
- Provides traditional phone service and Enterprise VoIP service.

By the end of calendar year 2008, approximately 4300 customers were hooked up to BT's all-fiber network with an average of 50-70 new installations per week. Most residential customers choose to receive the "triple play" of integrated digital Cable TV,

telephone and internet services. Businesses concentrate on high-speed internet, dedicated fiber, gigabit link and sophisticated business-oriented voice telephone services. In 2009, BT's road map includes WiFi service, expanded local video content, local advertising and the sale and support of customer network devices including routers. BT will also focus on several green initiatives, including electronic meter reading and promoting "working from home" as an alternative to commuting.

To keep informed, visit our website: [www.burlingtontelecom.com](http://www.burlingtontelecom.com) or use the link on the City's website, [www.ci.burlington.vt.us](http://www.ci.burlington.vt.us).



**Christopher Burns**  
 Acting General Manager

