

# FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

## MAYOR BOB KISS

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### BURLINGTON WEATHERS ANOTHER BIG STORM

This past Sunday, Burlington and the region endured another large snow storm which resulted in school, business, and non-essential state and City office closings. It was one of the top five recorded storms in Burlington's history, and comes during a winter of much higher than normal snowfall.

From Sunday until Thursday afternoon, Public Works crews worked around the clock in 12-hour shifts to clear the streets and sidewalks. The effort involved sidewalk and street plow operators, mechanics, administrative support staff, and supervisors. DPW's snow removal equipment includes 10 street plows, 12 sidewalk plows/snow-blowers, and 3 bucket loaders.

The Church Street Marketplace, Parks & Recreation Department, Burlington International Airport, and Burlington Electric Department staff worked to keep their essential facilities and programs running. The City's Police and Fire Departments did an outstanding job responding to challenging circumstances

and maintaining public safety.

The City appreciates the patience of residents and businesses during major weather events such as this one. Please contact DPW at 863-9094 or the Mayor's Office at 865-7272 if you have questions about the City's snow-fighting program.



*Photo by Ron Gore/DPW*

### GET INVOLVED IN THE FUTURE OF BURLINGTON'S DOWNTOWN AND WATERFRONT

The Planning & Zoning Department is leading a significant effort to develop a comprehensive land use and development plan for Burlington's Downtown and Waterfront. In conjunction with City funds, this effort is possible through a Sustainable Communities Challenge awarded to the City by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The planning process will focus on ways to promote and improve mixed uses and good urban design, affordable and workforce housing, transportation and parking management, and public infrastructure quality and capacity. The process will have a special focus on

identifying and addressing barriers to the creation of new infill development.

Want to learn more or get involved? Go to [www.ci.burlington.vt.us/planning/downtown\\_plan/](http://www.ci.burlington.vt.us/planning/downtown_plan/) or sign up on Facebook: **Burlington Downtown & Waterfront Plan.**



**..... FROM MAYOR KISS .....**



**Snow**

This week Burlington dug out of another large snowstorm. Department of Public Works staff worked around the clock to clear the City's streets and sidewalks under difficult circumstances. Other City departments providing essential services ensured good public safety and access to needed services during this event. The storm was especially challenging to the Fire Department as they responded to emergency calls. This storm came on top of what has already been a

difficult winter in comparison to recent years. While the amount of snowfall has varied over the years, there appears to be a trend of more extreme weather and larger storms. This is no coincidence as communities around the world continue to grapple with climate change.

Thank you to City staff for their efforts during the storm. The patience and support of Burlington residents and businesses is appreciated as well!

**FY12 Budget and Tax increase**

While I was disappointed that voters did not approve the proposed tax increase on the March ballot, I appreciate that many residents want more information about the FY12 budget. My administration will continue to review and refine the FY12 budget so that the Council and residents have as much information as

possible. Whether cuts are needed or the City seeks a vote on a more specific tax increase, my goal is to ensure that Burlington has the ability to support quality city services and keeps moving forward.

**With best regards,**

**Bob Kiss, Mayor**

**The Buzz**—information about events, issues, neighborhoods, and your community. Sign up for “the Buzz” by emailing Jenny Davis at [jdavis@ci.burlington.vt.us](mailto:jdavis@ci.burlington.vt.us) or check it by going to [www.cedoburlington.org/](http://www.cedoburlington.org/) and clicking on “Neighborhood Services.”

Contact Mayor Kiss at: [mayor@ci.burlington.vt.us](mailto:mayor@ci.burlington.vt.us) or [www.ci.burlington.vt.us/mayor](http://www.ci.burlington.vt.us/mayor)

**BY THE NUMBERS:  
GRAFFITI REMOVAL PROGRAM**

In 2010, the City's Graffiti Removal Program involved 93 community volunteers, together donating over 1100 hours of time, to clean 873 tags around the City. These efforts are an important component of promoting a safe, welcoming and economi-

cally vital community. The program is part of CEDO's Community Justice Center and Graffiti Removal coordinator Nicky Beaudoin also works closely with the Burlington Police Department. If you want to learn more, report a tag, or volunteer, call 865-7548, email [nbeaudoin@ci.burlington.vt.us](mailto:nbeaudoin@ci.burlington.vt.us), or go to: [cedoburlington.org](http://cedoburlington.org) and click on “Community Justice.”



**Want to learn more about Burlington's Climate Action efforts?** Burlington is one of the first cities in the country to write a Climate Action Plan. The City's first plan, ratified by City Council in 2000, is being updated and due for release in April. Based on the input of stakeholders including private citizens, and members of the public and private sectors, the updated plan will highlight several dozen strategies around transportation, energy efficiency, renewable energy, food systems and waste reduction, that once implemented will help us achieve our greenhouse gas reduction goal of 20% by 2020. For more information, including the City's greenhouse gas inventory and the cost-carbon analysis, go to <http://burlingtonclimateaction.com/>.