

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

MAYOR BOB KISS

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MAYOR'S STATE OF THE CITY SPEECH & COUNCIL ORGANIZATION DAY APRIL 4

April 4 marks the first meeting of the new City Council, swearing-in of Councilors, the Mayor's State of the City address, and election of a Council President and the Board of Finance. I look forward to working with the new City Council on the common goal of moving Burlington forward.

The meeting will begin at 7 pm in Contois Auditorium, City Hall. I hope City employees and residents plan to attend to recognize the new Council and hear about the many things happening in the City.



BURLINGTON CELEBRATES CONNECTIONS TO QUEBEC, FRANCE

On March 24 Mayor Kiss welcomed French Consul Général Christophe Guilhou and the Quebec representative to New England, Jean-Stephane Bernard, to Burlington for a ceremonial raising of a French "friendship flag" on the flagpole outside City Hall, by a Burlington Police Department and Fire Department color guard. The event was coordinated by Burlington City Arts, co-sponsored by the Alliance Française of the Lake Champlain Region, and included the support and participation of Ernie Pomerleau in his role as the Honorary French Consul for Vermont. The event also featured music by the Vermont-based Franco-American musical group Va-et-Vient. The friendship flag represents the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (International Organization of French-speaking Nations), established in March of 1970 and numbering 75 member entities worldwide.

The event marks the strong cultural and economic connections related to France – locally, regionally, and internationally. It continues Burlington's celebration of our strong ties to France, Quebec, and French culture re-energized with the City's Quadracentennial

celebration in 2009. At the flag raising Mayor Kiss announced that the City would pursue a formal relationship with the French city of Honfleur, which served as a base for most of Samuel de Champlain's voyages to North America. Mayor Kiss had the opportunity to visit Honfleur last year and Honfleur shares an interest in establishing a city to city connection. The City will keep residents informed as this plan moves forward. Please take the opportunity to see the French friendship flag flying outside of City Hall!



..... FROM MAYOR KISS



State of the City April 4

I'll be giving the City's annual State of the City speech on Monday April 4. This is an opportunity to see the new City Council sworn in and hear about things happening in the City.

Burlington continues to make progress in many ways. Despite a challenging national economic picture, the Burlington area has shown great resilience. We are moving forward on many projects and issues. There are also challenges and opportunities ahead of us.

I hope residents and city employees attend the meeting to hear more!

With best regards,

Bob Kiss, Mayor

Burlington Named one of the "10 Real Estate Markets to Watch" in 2011

Inman News has named the Burlington-South Burlington area as one of the 10 real estate markets to watch in 2011. The report comments on the Burlington area's low foreclosure rate (2nd lowest among 206 metro areas), 6th lowest unemployment rate in the country, and high quality life. Read more at: <http://www.inman.com/>.

Contact Mayor Kiss at: mayor@ci.burlington.vt.us or www.ci.burlington.vt.us/mayor

STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

The Department of Public Works has completed over \$1 million in wastewater stormwater improvements with ARRA recovery funds. This includes the installation of infiltration systems at eleven street locations and two schools that will remove a significant amount of stormwater from the city's

combined sewer system, as well as new energy efficient Turboblenders at the City's wastewater plants.

While the public may not see the results of this above ground, these improvements have made a significant difference in the City's wastewater and stormwater systems.



A new turbo-blower at one of the City's wastewater plants.



Stormwater improvement work this past fall.