

# FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

## MAYOR BOB KISS

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### BURLINGTON TO HOST USA TRIATHLON CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce and Vermont Convention Bureau hosted a press event on April 12 announcing that the USA Triathlon Championships will be held for the first time in Burlington in 2011 and 2012. Mayor Kiss attended the event along with Governor Peter Shumlin, Vermont Tourism Commissioner Meghan Smith, People's United Bank (title sponsor for the event) president Michael Seaver, and Run Vermont Executive Director Peter Delaney.

According to event organizers, Burlington's mix of urban landscape and lake and mountain setting make it an especially good site for this significant multi-sport event.

The 2011 event will occur in August and involve over 2000 athletes and 4000 spectators. The course will include venues in South Burlington and Shelburne. For more information go to: <http://www.vermont.org/>



*Mayor Kiss at the USA Triathlon Announcement*

### WORK BEGINS ON DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENTS

*Federal Transportation Funding Will Improve Lower Church Street and Saint Paul Street*

Excavation work began last month on lower Church Street as part of a \$1.6 million project which will significantly redesign pedestrian and streetscape elements of lower Church Street and Saint Paul Street.

The project is possible through federal transportation funding secured with the support of Senator Patrick Leahy. The funding comes from a total of \$6 million from the SAFETY-LU Act for Church Street and side street improvements. The lower Church Street work kicks-off one of several projects scheduled this summer for the downtown, including infrastructure improvements on upper Church Street and along Pearl Street.

The side-streets project now underway includes upgrades to sidewalks and ADA compliance issues, minor improvements to major intersections, providing bulb-outs, mid-block crossings, and use of on-street kiosk parking meters.

The City appreciates the patience of businesses and residents while this important work is completed. For questions, please call the Department of Public Works at 863-9094



*Work on Lower Church Street*

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



Chief Administrative Office Jonathan Leopold recently announced that he will be leaving his position after the end of this fiscal year, July 1, 2011. I'd like to thank Jonathan for his invaluable work as the City's CAO—a difficult job managing numerous elements of City operations.

No more important among the CAO's responsibilities is to assist

the Mayor in developing the City's annual budget. Under Jonathan's tenure, the City has kept the general services tax rate level, built the undesignated reserve fund from \$75,000 to over \$6 million, reduced the City's workers' compensation costs, and improved the sustainability of the City's retirement system—while enhancing the City's services and programs.

Burlington has been ahead of the curve with respect to its budget and operational management. We have not faced the cuts in services that other cities have due to the global economic crisis.

The City cannot avoid the pressures of inflation forever. We are anticipating a

gap in the FY12 budget. As we continue to develop the budget I expect to bring a proposal for a smaller tax increase than the "up to" 4 cent increase proposed in March. I believe the City will be in a position to propose a modest tax increase that will allow Burlington to continue providing quality essential services and keep our positive momentum going forward as the overall economy improves.

**With best regards,**

**Bob Kiss, Mayor**

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)



*Mayor Kiss at Bibens Ace Hardware as he visits New North End Businesses on April 14*

### **April is Fair Housing Month**

No one should be discriminated against in their housing because of race, disability, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, family status, or transgender identity. April commemorates Fair Housing Month. If you want more information or believe you've been discriminated against, contact CVOEO's Fair Housing Project at 864-3334 x202 or go to [www.cvoeo.org](http://www.cvoeo.org).

### **STATE OF CITY SPEECH ON-LINE**

Hear about things happening in the City and what's in store for the coming year. The Mayor's April 4 State of the City Speech is posted on-line at: [www.ci.burlington.vt.us/mayor/](http://www.ci.burlington.vt.us/mayor/).

### **Get Involved in Burlington's Climate Action Plan!**

The updated Climate Action Plan is nearly complete. Help the City finish this important work by taking the Climate Action Plan strategy-ranking survey: <http://burlingtonclimateaction.com/>. This survey lists 36 possible green-house gas reduction actions distilled from a total list of over 200 generated by 8 volunteer working groups comprised of over 100 community-members. By taking the survey, you'll help prioritize the 36 possible strategies and moving the Plan towards implementation. The survey will be open until April 20.