

Neighborhood BUZZ for December 8, 2011

LOCAL GOVT/NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

WARDS 2 AND 3 NPA TO HOST ASHE AND WEINBERGER TONIGHT: The Neighborhood Planning Assembly from Wards 2 and 3 will host a forum between Miro Weinberger and Tim Ashe, the two democratic mayoral candidates. The forum will happen during the second half of the meeting, 7:45 – 8:45pm. The NPA will start at 6:30pm. Other items on the agenda include information on the TIF March ballot item, reports from elected officials, an update from the VT Worker's Center, and the election of reps from each Ward to the CDBG Advisory Board. The NPA meets at the McClure MultiGen Center, 241 N. Winooski Ave. There is a community dinner that precedes the NPA, 5:30 – 6:20pm. All Burlington residents are invited to attend.

WARD 5 NPA TO MEET DEC 13: 7:00pm, 645 Pine St: Agenda items include an update from the Bike Path Task Force, CDBG Advisory Board elections, a presentation and "Q & A" on the TIF March ballot item, reports from election officials.

WARD 1 NPA TO MEET DEC 14: 6:30pm, UVM's Waterman Bldg, Memorial Lounge: Agenda items include: the transfer of Noneducator Pension Expenses from City to School Budget and Impact on Municipal Tax Rates, Scott Schrader; a presentation and "Q & A" on the TIF March ballot item; CDBG Advisory Board elections; reports from elected officials.

For more info on the NPAs or the complete agenda for any of the above meetings:

<http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/Content.aspx?id=3388>

AWESOME TREE AWARDS AND ANNUAL MEETING: Come to the TREE Mendous Event: Branch Out Burlington's Awesome Tree Award Ceremony and Annual Meeting, **TONIGHT** at 6:00pm in the Miller Building of Champlain College, at 175 Lakeside Avenue, next to the Cumberland Farms store. Warren Spinner, Burlington's arborist, will give a presentation of the past and present winners. Danielle Fitzko, head of Vermont's Urban and Community Forestry Program of the VT Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation will honor this year's Awesome winners. Other individual awards will also be given out to Awesome volunteers. Pizza and home made deserts will be served. All lovers of trees are welcome! New volunteers are eagerly sought to play an active role in bringing more trees to our streets. For more info: Margaret Skinner at 656-5440, miskinner@uvm.edu.

HEALTH CARE UPDATE: The Agency of Administration's statewide health care "listening session" will come to our area from 6:00 to 8:00pm on December 14 at the Dept. of VT Health Access conference room, 312 Hurricane Lane, Williston. The meeting will help inform the design of future health care reform financing plans. The session will include presentations on the challenges facing Vermont's health care system, possible principles for a health care financing system, and an overview of potential funding sources.

CDBG NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS DUE DECEMBER 19: The federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is a principal revenue source for local communities to address the roots and consequences of poverty. The U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development administers the program on a national basis and awards grants annually to entitlement communities, including Burlington, on a formula basis. The City in turn awards grants to local organizations as well as operating several CDBG-funded programs. Money is available through the city's CDBG program for neighborhood projects. These projects must meet at least one of the following anti-poverty goals: A. Moves people out of poverty, B. Prevents people from entering poverty, C. Addresses basic needs of people living in poverty. The deadline for 2012 applications is December 19, 2011, 4:00 pm. for more info: <http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CEDO/CDBG/How-to-Apply/>

FEEDBACK ON ECOS DUE BY DEC 31: The ECOS partners have been very busy working on the ECOS Project and have lots of good news to share with you. ECOS stands for Environment, Community, Opportunity and Sustainability and is a once-in-a generation opportunity to develop a shared action plan for a more healthy, inclusive and prosperous community. Chittenden County RPC is spearheading the project, along with more than 60 diverse organizations representing the community, and they are looking for your ideas and actions that will help shape the future of the region. Visit the newsletter (<http://bit.ly/tzWCDP>) to get the latest ECOS information. You are invited to comment on draft Analysis Reports regarding Economic Development, Education, Energy, Housing, Land Use & Transportation, Natural Resources, and Public Health: (<http://ecosproject.com/analysis>). The comment period is open until December 31, 2011.

Please contact Leslie at 802-846-4490 ext. 21 or lbonnette@ccrpcvt.org if you'd like ECOS to talk directly with you or a group. This is an effort to develop shared priorities for a healthy, inclusive and prosperous community. All are encouraged to participate.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Here is a link for a list of all School Board meetings for the week: <http://bsdweb.bsdrv.org/Board/BoardCalendar.php>

GOVT MEETINGS

Here is the link for a list of all Government meetings in Burlington for the week: www.ci.burlington.vt.us/events

CCTV LINKS TO BURLINGTON CITY MEETINGS

Channel 17/Town Meeting TV has a full complement of community meetings for viewers to watch on TV and on the web. Access to video links, schedules and more information can be found here: <http://www.cctv.org/watch-tv/municipalities/burlington>.

THE ARTS

SOUTH END HOLIDAY HOP: The annual South End Holiday Hop is a full weekend dedicated to promoting local holiday sales in the South End of Burlington. You can participate in the fun as you hop and shop 30 creative venues on: December 9 from 5:00pm – 8:00pm; December 10 from 10:00am – 5:00pm; December 11 from Noon – 4:00pm. For more info and the complete listing of venues: <http://seaba.com/>

THAT'S BRILLIANT: Tonight at the Echo Center (on the Burlington Waterfront, bottom of College St), 6:30 – 8:30pm is an evening of original Vermont inventions and inventors! Observe, touch and try more than 15 different inventions. There will be a cash bar and free snacks. \$12/person, \$10 for Echo members. For more info: echovermont.org.

VERY MERRY THEATRE PRESENTS: "Into the Woods" on Dec 9 and 10, shows at 2:00pm and 7:00pm. The performances are free and open to the public and will be held at their space at 333 N. Winooski Ave. for more info: <http://verymerrytheatre.org>.

ADVENT LITURGY: St. Paul's Cathedral in Burlington will offer its annual Advent liturgy of the Great O Antiphons on December 11 at 5:00pm. The Cathedral choir will sing ancient Gregorian chant antiphons in Latin, followed by Burlington composer Mark Howe's contemporary settings in English. This festive candlelit service features Advent hymns and carols, readings of prophecy and fulfillment, and prayers. This is a free event. For more info: 864-0471.

DECEMBER LUNCHTIME HOLIDAY CONCERTS: The First Baptist Church will host a series of noon time Advent Music Concerts each Thursday until Christmas. Each concert will run from 12:15 - 12:45pm and admission is free. People are encouraged to bring their bag lunch if they would like to or to simply escape the hassle of shopping and relax for thirty minutes. Coffee and tea will be provided. First Baptist Church is located at 81 St. Paul Street just north of City Hall Park. It's the church with the green steeple. The schedule of performers is as follows:
December 8 Carol Hewitt and Lynnette Combs, piano 4 hands
December 15 Larry Gordon and friends, West Gallery carols
December 22 Lynnette Combs, organ
Anyone who would like more details can call the church office at 864-6515 any day before 1:00pm.

UVM STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHY: Come see exciting new performance works by UVM dance composition students! This event is FREE and open to the public, Dec. 11, 7:00 to 8:30pm, Music Building Recital Hall, A200, on the UVM campus. For more info: Paul.Besaw@uvm.edu.

HANDBELL ENSEMBLE TO PERFORM: The Northern Bronze Handbell Ensemble, a group of 14 handbell ringers, will be presenting a concert on December 9 at 7:00pm at the College Street Congregational Church. For more info: www.northernbronze.org.

UVM HIT PAWS WINTER CONCERT: If you enjoy listening to music, you will enjoy this A Cappella show, by the UVM Hit Paws, Dec. 9, 8:00 to 10:00pm in the Davis Student Center, the Silver Maple Ballroom. Admission: \$5.

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

DECEMBER OFFERINGS FROM THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPT:

Dec. 10: Gingerbread House Decorating at the Miller Center, 130 Gosse Ct, 12:00-3:00pm, \$35.00/family.
Dec. 10: Holiday Ornaments from Around the World at the Miller Center, 1:00-3:00pm \$15.00 per family
Dec. 10: 50 plus Holiday Light Trip around Burlington and Dinner, 4:00-8:00pm \$20.00 per person
Dec 16: Parents Night Out, 6-9:00pm at Edmunds Elementary School Cafeteria, \$10/child. Kids in K-5th grades invited to join Susan & Sarah Carter for games, crafts and movies while parents enjoy a night out!

For more information or to register for any of our great holiday programs: www.enjoyburlington.com or call 864-0123.

EDUCATORS INVITED TO PROGRAM ON FLOODS: The Champlain Basin Education Initiative invites local educators to a FREE program about the 2011 Lake Champlain and Tributary Flooding Impacts at St. Michael's College on December 9 from 5-7:00pm. Dr. Bill Howland, Program Manager for the LCBP, will share his aerial photos from both flood events and discuss the impacts that the storms may have had on Lake Champlain. RSVP to chickey@lcbp.org or call (802) 372-3213 ext 11.

WHY WE OCCUPY (How Wall Street Picks the Bones of America): Greg Palast, the BBC investigative reporter who busted open the theft of the election in Florida, is back with a new book, *Vultures' Picnic*, an investigation of The One Percent. From his four-continent sleuthing, he exposes the high-finance carnivores and petroleum pigs, the movers and shakers who move and shake us. Weird, eye-opening, funny, sick and insanely informative ... it's WHY we occupy.

Mr. Palast will be the featured speaker at an event on Dec. 12, 7:00pm, at the Main Street Landing Film House, 60 Lake St. For more info: shirleymayfield@gmail.com.

SENIOR CENTER TO HOST "LISTENING TO YOUR BODY SERIES": All ages are welcomed to this fascinating series of lectures led by Liz Guren, L.A.C. Liz is a certified acupuncturist and specialist in Chinese herbs and medicine.
December 13 at 1:00pm: "Getting Your Body Ready for Winter."
January 10 at 1:00pm: "What Your Body's Symptoms are Trying to Tell You"
January 24th at 1:00pm: "More of What Your Bodies Symptoms are Trying to Tell You." This series will happen at the Champlain Senior Center; 241 North Winooski Ave., for more info: 658-3585.

FUNDRAISERS

SHRED FOR BREAD, SKATEPARK COALITION TO HOST EVENT AT MAGLIANEROS CAFE: December 9, 6:30 – 10:00pm. There will be three live bands, a 50/50 raffle, skating, socializing and excitement for the replacement Skatepark along the Burlington Waterfront. This is a fundraiser, but there will also be information about the new facility available. For more info: burlingtonskatepark@gmail.com.

COOL JEWELRY THAT SUPPORTS LOCAL MOTION AND BIKE RECYCLE: This holiday, give a gift that makes a difference! Give Bike Recycle Designs Jewelry! Need a gift for that special someone who appreciates handmade gifts and Local Motion's mission? The fabulous volunteers at Local Motion make great spoke bracelets, inner tube earrings and tire belts at Bike Recycle Vermont using defunct bike parts. The proceeds support Local Motion's programs. You can purchase Bike Recycle Designs products online, at Maglianero's Cafe, Skirack, and Outdoor Gear Exchange, or at the Burlington City Arts Holiday Market, December 16 from noon – 8:00pm and December 17 from 9:00am - 6:00pm in Contois Auditorium in City Hall. For more info: localmotion.org.

BUY A BRICK FOR THE SKATEPARK: This Holiday Season there is a meaningful gift idea for anyone on your list who would appreciate being a permanent part of a special Burlington landmark. The Burlington Waterfront Skate Park is set to undergo redevelopment and it needs community support. A new state-of-the art concrete skate park, will attract enthusiasts of all ages and abilities from around the region. Through the "Buy a Brick" campaign you can make a \$50 tax-deductible donation to sponsor a clay brick, and the names of your loved ones will become a permanent part of the grounds around the Waterfront Skate Park. Every \$50 donation/brick purchase will also receive a certificate in the name of the person you wish to honor: a great gift for a child, a teacher, a friend, or fan of skateboarding. This certificate is the perfect thing to wrap and place under the tree, in the stocking, or give in any way you want! This is a gift not only for the person receiving, but for the community to enjoy for years to come. To make your year-end, tax-deductible contribution: www.inlu.com/skateBTV. This campaign will end on December 28. If you want your certificate(s) in time for Christmas, please order by Dec. 21. Many thanks to the Vermont-based www.inlu.com who worked with the Skate Park Coalition again this December to create a website and format that will make the collection process fast and easy. For more info: jdavis@ci.burlington.vt.us, 865-7172.

COTS GIVING SEASON EVENTS: Join the Committee on Temporary Shelter in raising as much awareness and money as possible for disadvantaged, low-income, and homeless families and individuals in our community this holiday season. Please think about participating in events such as: The Coolest Lunch (Dec 14), and the annual Candlelight Vigil (Dec 21). Find out more about COTS' mission, current homelessness statistics, and opportunities to volunteer and/or donate at <http://www.cotsonline.org/how-you-can-help.html>

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN GIFT CAMPAIGN: Share the joy of reading! The Fletcher Free Library invites community members to participate in the 21st Annual "Books for Children Gift Campaign," which provides Burlington preschoolers with new, quality books during the holiday season. Please stop by the Library to pick up a list of suggested picture books. Please deliver the books to the Library by December 11. For more info: 865-7216, rgoldberg@ci.burlington.vt.us.

ONLINE AUCTION TO BENEFIT THE VYC: The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps' Online Holiday Auction 2011 is now open. There really are great deals to be had. Please take a moment to explore the site (www.biddingforgood.com/vycc). The auction will run until December 18 and all proceeds from the auction directly support efforts to inspire the state's youth to become tomorrow's environmental stewards and community leaders. Don't miss the chance to get some great steals on a wide assortment of items including gift certificates, ski passes, museum memberships, weekend getaways, and much more.

TAKE A HOLIDAY BREAK AT DRINK: Puppets in Education will receive a donation of 10% of sales at Drink on December 13. Drink is located at 135 St. Paul Street. You will find the most extensive list of wines, beers, and original cocktails in the area. On Tuesdays, hand-crafted infusions are \$4. The event is from 4:30pm – 2:00am. For more info: www.PuppetsInEducation.org.

SPORTS/RECREATION

HOLIDAY ICE TIMES AT LEDDY PARK ICE ARENA: There are plenty of public skate times in the Leddy Park Ice Arena, providing a wonderful way to recreate with your friends and family this winter. For the schedule and for more info: <http://www.enjoyburlington.com/LeddyPark/PublicSkating.cfm>.

CHARLIE BURCHARD MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT: The Burlington High School Boy's Hockey team will host the annual Burchard Tournament on December 9 and 10 at the Leddy Park Ice Arena.
DEC 9: RICE vs. BHS at 6:10pm, CVU vs. North Country at 8:10pm.
DEC 10: Consolation Game at 6:10pm, with the Championship Game at 8:10pm.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

UNITED WAY VOLUNTEER DATA BASE: There is always a need for volunteers at any number of social service agencies in our area. One source for this information: <http://www.unitedwaycc.org/volunteer>.

MISC. AND OTHER COOL STUFF

VALET PARKING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON ON THE MARKETPLACE: Patrons can leave their cars at the corner of Church and Main Streets between NOON and 10pm on Fridays and Saturdays through December 24 for valet parking service. You will be given a ticket with a cell phone number to call back when they are ready to pick their car back up! The cost is \$8 per vehicle. For more info: Eli at powereli@gmail.com. The valet program will be run by Green Mountain Concert Services.

WINTER'S EVE CELEBRATION: Come Calling on Ethan and Fanny Allen for a Winter's Eve Celebration! Begin your experience in the 18th Century Tavern where you will get the opportunity to take part in some 18th Century Group Dances, hear live music, or get your copy of the latest biography of Ethan Allen signed by Willard Sterne Randall! Then have a lantern lit tour of the Allen House where historical re-enactors will greet you with period refreshments and historical presentations! The event is Dec. 10, 4 – 7:00pm. The full schedule of events is at www.ethanallenhomestead.org Admission: \$5 for Adults, \$3 for Children 6-12, Free for Children under 6 Please call 865-4556 or e-mail info@ethanallenhomestead.org with any questions. For more info: www.ethanallenhomestead.org

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY CONFERENCE DEC 10: Celebrate Human Rights Day by joining Students Stand Up and the Vermont Workers' Center at the University of Vermont's Davis Center in Burlington for the VWC annual membership assembly, a conference featuring inspiring workshops, and a dinner with Bernie Sanders, celebrating our year's

successes. Also featuring the premiere of the "Strength of the Storm", a documentary about the impact of Tropical Storm Irene on Vermont communities and the inspiring organizing that has emerged from that (check out a trailer: <http://www.strengthofthestorm.org/> !). This is a free, all day event, childcare provided. Register online: <http://www.workerscenter.org/december10>. for more info: Avery at 861-4892.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY SENIOR DINNER DEC. 14: The 7th Annual Senior Holiday Dinner is scheduled for December 14 from 6-8:00pm at the Miller Community Recreation Center, 130 Gosse Court. Enjoy a wonderful and festive evening with friends, holiday singing and great food. Reserve your spot now by calling 802-864-0123 - spaces limited to 100 seniors! Bus transportation provided from senior housing centers. This event is free but donations of canned goods for the COTS program will be much appreciated. For more info: Parks and Recreation Dept, 864-0123.

REINDEER AND MINIATURE HORSES ON THE MARKETPLACE: Children of all ages are invited to the top block of Church Street every Saturday through December 17 for delightful rides in holiday bedecked carriages pulled by miniature horses from the Green Mountain Miniature Horse Club. Miniature horse and buggy rides take place from 11:00am – 3:00pm. Also make sure to meet Santa's reindeer, Prancer and friends from 11:00am to 4:00pm right in front of HomePort on December 10.

WINTER FARMERS MARKET: The "Winter Farmers Market" happens every other Saturday through April in Memorial Auditorium (corner of So. Union and Main Streets). All are welcome to come and purchase fresh local produce, delicious food, gifts, and more! For more info: <http://www.burlingtonfarmersmarket.org>. The next Saturday is December 17, 10:00am – 2:00pm.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN TIP OF THE WEEK: From Lake Champlain International: Past weekly tips to protect Lake Champlain have been focused on only half of the lake's pollution source – our homes, lawns, and driveways. The other half (some studies say a little more than half) comes from the farms scattered across the lake's basin. The basin being the land that drains into the lake. One great way that non-farmers can help protect the lake from farm pollution is to ask the farmers that provide your dairy or vegetable products what they're doing to prevent water pollution runoff from their farms. This could be at a farmer's market, community supported agriculture (CSA) pick-up, or even when you go cut your Christmas tree at the tree farm. This can help many farmers understand how important preventing pollution is to the Lake Champlain community if they don't already, which will strengthen their dedication to helping protect our lake. For more tips to help protect Lake Champlain, visit www.mychamplain.net.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR SENIORS: HANDS is sponsoring the 7th Annual Holiday Dinner for Seniors on Christmas Day at 1:00pm at the Heineberg Senior Center, 14 Heineberg Rd. Please let your older neighbors know that HANDS can either provide free transportation and the meal or can deliver a meal to their homes by calling Champlain Valley Agency on Aging at 865-0360 by December 16. There are plenty of volunteers, but HANDS could use help with goodies for the holiday gift bags or monetary donations. Please check the "Wish List" at www.handsvt.org for more info.

CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP: The City of Burlington will provide curbside tree collection on January 10. Trees must be curbside by 7:00 am. Only completely bare trees (no tinsel or decorations) will be accepted -- no wreaths, garlands, or artificial trees! These trees will be turned into fuel at the McNeil Generating Plant! For more info: Dept of Public Works, 863-9094.

FIRST NIGHT BURLINGTON: This is an action-packed, substance-free, family-friendly day and night-long celebration of New Year's Eve happening in and around downtown Burlington. For button info and the complete schedule of events: firstnightburlington.com.

THE CITY OF BURLINGTON IS HIRING

For info on openings within the city: <http://www.hrjobs.ci.burlington.vt.us/jobs/>.