



Town of Burlington

On this, my 90th day in the role of First Selectman, I am reflecting on all that has transpired in this short time.

We welcomed many of you at our Annual Town Meeting in late January—standing room only that evening. The Town voted to purchase a new vehicle for our Volunteer Fire Department. There was much discussion on the proposed citation ordinance which is on hold for the time being.

We've received final grant approval and are going out to bid for the Rails to Trails project to connect the Burlington trail to Farmington. We expect to begin the project in mid May with completion targeted for late June. We submitted updated documentation in mid-March and just last week we received word that the Town has been awarded an Energy Grant to be used to replace windows and improve energy efficiency at Evergreens, our Senior Housing Complex.

We've submitted a letter of intent to the State for Small Cities and Towns grants. There are several projects that may be considered eligible within the restrictions of this funding. Our deadline for final submission is early June.

We're getting bids for installation of an LED sign in front of Town Hall and installation of a generator at Town Hall. The funding for these will come from STEAP grants. We have more documentation to submit before getting final approval to purchase and install a generator at Evergreens.

We've requested and have received documentation on a Municipal Grant Program through the State of Connecticut Department of Public Safety. Apparently in August 2008 the State Bond Commission awarded a Grant-in-Aid for a project to improve one of our Fire Houses. As documentation had not previously been submitted by the Town, we are working to remedy that so the Town can receive the \$100,000 award and begin work on the identified improvements.

We're engaged in a discussion around central business zone development. While there are a variety of ideas on this topic, a central theme is that it's essential to extend the water line from the existing end point down to Covey Road and possibly the Fire House. Our Economic Development Commission is doing research to determine actual costs and level of interest among those along the proposed route.

Our probate court is consolidating with Farmington. Our new name will be the Farmington and Burlington Probate Court. This consolidation comes as a result of a statewide directive. We have a good working relationship with Farmington and look forward to a smooth transition to ensure that we maintain a high level of service to our residents.

We have added a search capability to our website to make it easier for you to navigate and find things. We are working on phase two of updates to our website and hope to introduce those changes this summer.



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This year marks the 200th anniversary of Elton Tavern. The Burlington Historical Society has put together a request for STEAP funding to bring needed repairs to help preserve this beautiful landmark.

Our Chamber of Commerce just hosted the Nutmeg Children's Symphony at Mills for third graders. Lake Garda and Harwinton Consolidated students as well as those invited from other schools were introduced to all the musical instruments in a creative and entertaining way.

We installed a new stop sign at the intersection of Jerome Avenue and South Main Street to address a safety issue. The sight line when exiting South Main heading north on Jerome is the issue that warranted installation of this new sign. We are also reviewing other intersections on Jerome Avenue for possible removal of superfluous stop signs. We will keep you posted.

Just last evening the Board of Selectman appointed Roger Powell to fill the vacancy on the BOS due to Ken Allen's recent resignation. We regretfully accepted Ken's resignation, and are excited to welcome Roger to this Board during our busy budget review process.

We are collecting recyclable bottles and cans—the proceeds will go to Burlington's youth—perhaps to provide assistance to someone in the form of enabling them to participate in a Town program or activity.

Bristol Water Company is organizing a Medication Disposal Program on May 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring your expired or unwanted meds to Southington Water Department, 605 West Queen Street to ensure proper disposal. You don't want to flush meds into the water system.

Our Park & Rec Department is getting ready for the busy summer season programs. Visit their page on our site.

We're working to tie in to the School District's emergency alert system. With this we will be able to notify residents of a Town emergency efficiently. We can also create a database with residents' email addresses to inform you of Town developments, meetings, etc. We plan to mail requests for information in early summer. You can choose whether to participate in this program.

Burlington is working with the McCall Foundation on a program to encourage our youth to resist alcohol. We, as a community, should do all we can to provide support and resources to our children to help them make better choices for their lives.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is April 17 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. You will see signs posted around Town in the coming weeks.



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Plan to come out over Memorial Day weekend to the Lions' Club Carnival! It will be held on Library Lane on Thursday evening, Friday evening, and all day Saturday, May 27-29. Of course we will have our Memorial Day Parade!

Our BVFD competed recently in a Tower Climb and placed second! Nice job! Under their direction, we've installed more dry hydrants in Town—working to keep our residents safe.

Our Highway Department has done a solid job with snow removal this year, keeping the roads safe while staying within our budget constraints. Roads that need repair are being addressed through a plan that is well thought out. This team is seasoned and works quite well together on behalf of our Town.

These are just some of the things going on and being addressed. Any questions or concerns on any Town matter, please let me know.

Burlington appears in the local news occasionally. If you ever have a question or concern about something you read or hear, please call my office. Consider that what appears in print may be taken out of context or may be inaccurate or may be a small piece of what is reality. I welcome the opportunity to address your concerns.

I look forward to the challenges that each day presents. I am honored to be in this office, working on behalf of our great community.

Blessings ~ Cathy Bergstrom
860-673-6789 x202

March 31, 2010