



Town of Burlington

December 2009

Welcome to the Selectmen's Corner. Before I hand over the job to our new First Selectman on January 1st, I would like to thank the Town of Burlington for two years of incredible support. I hope you will enjoy the improvements to the Town Green and the addition to the Historic Brown Tavern. With the future of Burlington in mind and the hard work of this administration, Burlington will soon benefit from the many other grants awarded to our town. In order to be ready for what we can only hope will be a quick economic recovery; I was able to attain over a million dollars in various funding from the State and Federal government, to entice small Commercial development in the Central Business District of Burlington. This area, in proximity to Route 4, has a healthy local economic record which helped increase our bond rating to A1. This rating, in conjunction with your long history of responsible tax payments, will present an attractive site for future small businesses.

The First Selectman's Office has had an "open door" policy and I have had many residents come in to talk about concerns and issues that affect our town. You have been my first priority. Your input has proven invaluable and welcome. Again, I thank you for taking the time to tell the Board of Selectmen and myself what issues have arisen and must be dealt with for our town to continue in friendship and peace.

We now have over 25 families who use our Food Bank. Your continued help in restocking it is much appreciated. Joan Tharau, our volunteer in charge of the Food Bank, has asked for specific items including peanut butter, tuna fish, pre-made canned meals such as beef stew or spaghetti and meatballs, paper goods, toiletries, and other non-perishable goods. We have received amazing amounts of support during the Holiday season; not only to the food and fuel banks, but with gifts to children who's eyes will light up come Christmas morning. Burlington has a huge heart, and the residents show it all year round.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant agreement for approximately \$475,000 will be signed this week. This is a time-sensitive grant, which will be turned over to the new administration for completion. The 3,800 foot multi-use recreational trail will go from the Farmington line, along the Farmington River ending at the north parking lot near Canton. Plans for this trail are complete and construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2010.

If you are done shopping, consider joining the knitting group at the Burlington Public Library on Wednesday evenings. There are wonderful people there and lots of things to discuss while plying the knitting needles.

Our Volunteer Fire Department has been here for all of us 24/7 and we thank them for their dedicated commitment and service to our town. These volunteers, who do so much, are in danger of losing quite a bit of funding from the State of Connecticut, Office of Policy and Management. You can contact both of our legislators, Jonathan Harris and John Piscopo, to let them know how important these services are to our community. If you need their email addresses, contact the office of the First Selectman. Be proactive!

Finally, I'd like to say "thank you" to a tremendous staff; in Town Hall, the Highway Garage, both State and local Police, the many, many wonderful volunteer organizations, our Library, and the dedicated people who serve on our Boards and Commissions.

I wish you all a joyous holiday season with your families and friends.

Kathy Z