

## Neighborhood Associations in O.N.E. Neighborhoods

One of the goals of this survey was to look at the role of Burlington's Neighborhood Associations (NA's) and the impact they may have had on the quality of life in their neighborhoods. Of the streets canvassed, 3 had some form of NA, one previously had an NA, and the fifth did not have one.

92.3% of all residents surveyed believed that their neighborhood would (or does) benefit from having an NA.

50.0% of residents reported that they knew someone on their block who is a leader in some way.

The top benefits of having a Neighborhood Association (as ranked by O.N.E. residents with NA's) were:

- Reduced my feeling of being alone and isolated
- Increased pride in our neighborhood
- Has made our neighborhood safer
- Increased ability to accomplish neighborhood projects

## Planning for the Future:

Fifteen years ago, you allowed a small group of AmeriCorps\*VISTAs into your neighborhoods to help you identify ways to move the neighborhood to levels of increased safety, and quality of life. This work has only succeeded because of your belief in what we were attempting to accomplish. Over the last 3 years, the VISTAs and staff at the Center for Community & Neighborhoods have noticed a shift in neighborhood need. Through dialogue, interviews, trainings and reports, several urgent needs have emerged.

Graffiti Removal, Financial Literacy & Economic Empowerment, Refugee Social Support, and Classism Education will be the four primary emphases of the new Community and Neighborhood Services Team. These projects will be led by CCAN staff and AmeriCorps\*VISTAs. Though our office is pursuing more specific program goals in the next few years, we are committed to supporting our neighborhoods. Ita Meno, the City's Neighborhood Development Specialist, will continue to be available for support.

## Next Steps ...

The information being gathered through this Neighborhood Survey is being shared with residents and community organizations in the Old North End and with city departments in order to help them create the types of support that residents want.

If you are part of a group who would like to learn more about the survey or about how you might work to address some of the important issues raised by residents, we'd be happy to speak with you.

Would you like more information about Neighborhood Associations in your area? Please call Ita Meno at 865-7172, or email [imeno@ci.burlington.vt.us](mailto:imeno@ci.burlington.vt.us) to find out whether your street has an active association, or to get information on starting an association.



For more information or support from the Center for Community and Neighborhoods, visit them online at: [www.cedoburlington.org/neighborhoods/ccan\\_main.htm](http://www.cedoburlington.org/neighborhoods/ccan_main.htm).

For more information or support from the University of Vermont's Office of Community-University Partnerships & Service-Learning, please visit: [www.uvm.edu/partnerships](http://www.uvm.edu/partnerships).

## Old North End Neighborhood Quality of Life Survey Results

*UVM Economics Class and Burlington's Community & Economic Development Office,  
with support from UVM's Community-University Partnerships & Service-Learning Office*



Between the months of January and May 2007, eighteen students enrolled in a Local Economic Development course at the University of Vermont teamed up with Burlington's Center for Communities and Neighborhood (CCAN) to survey residents of the Old North End regarding their perceived quality of life. The goal of the survey was to gather information about the quality of life for residents and how community resources can support residents' needs.

Residents were surveyed on the following streets: Booth, Converse, Johnson, LaFountain, and St. Louis. Teamed up with AmeriCorps Vista workers from CCAN, the university students went from door to door to ask the street's residents if they could spare fifteen or twenty minutes of their time in order to participate in the survey.

In total, 62 surveys were collected. Of a total of 62 surveys 8 were from Booth, 5 from Converse Court, 9 from Johnson, 16 from LaFountain, and 24 from St. Louis. The surveys were "coded" (a process wherein qualitative data is turned into quantitative data) and compiled in a spreadsheet. Using the final spreadsheet of amalgamated data, students analyzed neighborhood trends and also made comparisons between the different streets.

This flyer presents some of the findings of the survey; it outlines the benefits and challenges of each street as well as some recommendations for change. We hope that our findings can be put to use helping to identify and address the needs of each street can in the years to come in order to ensure strong and healthy communities.

### Greatest benefits to living in the Old North End

- Convenience of Location (84 percent)  
Residents enjoy the neighborhood's proximity to downtown, waterfront, stores, schools, work, parks and the bike path.
- Positive relationships among neighbors and sense of community (48 percent)
- Quality of General Environment (53 percent)  
Residents described neighborhood as a quiet, safe, and pleasant place to live.

### Most pressing issues facing O.N.E. Neighborhoods

- Crime and Safety (65 percent)  
Respondents particularly mentioned concerns about theft, violence, property destruction, fighting, and domestic abuse.
- Quality of General Environment (69 percent)  
Including noise, parking, trash dumping, traffic
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse (23 percent)
- Tension among Residents (23 percent)  
Tensions with college students. Only 3 respondents cited tensions with immigrants/refugees as a concern.

**BOOTH STREET:**  
Booth Street residents are primarily home owners and long term residents, who are happy with their street but also concerned with noise, college students, and theft.

- Average resident tenure: 10.8 years
- Median resident tenure: 9 years
- High rate of ownership: 87.5 percent

**Plans for the future:**

- 75 percent plan to stay three years.
- Of these, 38 percent plan to stay ten years.

**Positive characteristics of street:**

- Convenience of location (100 percent) (proximity to schools, downtown, parks)
- Quality of General Environment (63 percent) People are friendly, street is quiet, pleasant
- Residents are happy the block has leaders (63 percent)

**Top concerns on street:**

- Crime and Safety (63 percent) Theft
- General environment (63 percent) Noise Tension with college students

**CONVERSE COURT:**  
Residents likely to be short-term renters who think their neighbors are friendly but are concerned with theft and noise.

- Average resident tenure: 5.2
- Median resident tenure: 1 year
- Low home ownership: 20 percent

**Plans for the future:**

- 40 percent plan to stay three years.
- None of the residents surveyed plan to stay ten years.

**Positive characteristics of street:**

- Convenience of location (100 percent) (proximity to downtown)
- Quality of General Environment (40 percent) People are friendly, Street is safe
- None of the residents interviewed felt tension between residents.

**Top concerns on street:**

- Crime and Safety (60 percent) Theft

**JOHNSON STREET:**  
With the lowest resident tenure of any street, and the highest percentage of renters, Johnson Street residents tend to enjoy the convenience of the location but feel disconnected from their neighbors, and are concerned with noise and violence. Residents feel that the street would benefit greatly from the creation of a neighborhood association.

- Average resident tenure: 2 years
- Median resident tenure: 1 year
- Very low rate of home ownership

**Plans for the future:**

- 22 percent plan to stay three years.
- None of the residents interviewed plan to stay ten years.
- 100 percent of residents surveyed believe the street would benefit from the creation of a neighborhood association.

**Positive characteristics of street:**

- Convenience of location (100 percent) (proximity to downtown, being able to walk)
- Quality of General Environment (22 percent) People are friendly, street is quiet, pleasant

**Top concerns on street:**

- General environment (88 percent) Noise
- Crime and Safety (67 percent) Violence
- Insufficient Sense of Community
- Lack of leaders on block Not enough neighborhood socializing

**LAFOUNTAIN STREET:**  
This street is home to long-term residents and home owners who like their street but are worried about noise, violence, and property destruction. 90 percent of long term residents have seen positive changes in the last few years such as increased home ownership, and lower levels of crime.

- Average resident tenure: 8.5 years
- Median resident tenure: 7.5 years
- High rate of ownership: 69 percent

**Plans for the future:**

- 56 percent plan to stay three years.
- Of these, 31 percent plan to stay ten years.

**Positive characteristics of street:**

- Convenience of location (69 percent) (proximity to downtown, being able to walk)
- Quality of General Environment (38 percent) People are friendly, Street is quiet Residents feel a strong sense of community

**Top concerns on street:**

- General environment (56 percent) Noise
- Crime and Safety (69 percent) Violence, Property destruction

## Resident Perceptions of Neighborhood Change

Some of the residents who were interviewed had lived in the Old North End area for many years (up to 65 years!) while others had just recently moved to the neighborhood. 32 of the 62 interviewed residents have lived on the block for more than four years.

**84 percent of these long-term residents feel there have been neighborhood changes in the last 4-5 years.**

**Major findings:** Residents’ responses indicate that, although in recent years number of long-term residents has increased and home ownership rates have risen, resident churn is still an issue affecting their neighborhoods.

**63 percent described positive changes, including:**

- More home ownership
- More long-term residents
- Improvement to physical environment/buildings
- Greater sense of community
- Reduced Crime
- Reduced Drugs
- Reduced fighting

**31 percent described negative changes, including:**

- High turnover of residents
- Less interpersonal interaction among neighbors
- Physical deterioration of the neighborhood
- Increased crime

**ST. LOUIS STREET:**  
St. Louis Street is home to many long-term residents, but few home owners. These people value the convenience of the location and the relationships they have with their neighbors but are concerned with crime, parking and trash. Residents would like to see a neighborhood clean-up.

- Average resident tenure: 8.75 years
- Median resident tenure: 4 years
- Low rate of home ownership: 29 percent

**Plans for the future:**

- 65percent plan to stay three years.
- Of these, 21 percent plan to stay ten years.
- 46 percent of residents would like to see more beautification efforts in their neighborhood.

**Positive characteristics of street:**

- Convenience of location (79 percent) (proximity to parks and downtown, being able to walk)
- Quality of General Environment (75 percent) People are friendly, Street is quiet, pleasant
- Residents gather together to socialize.

**Top concerns on street:**

- General environment (75 percent) Traffic/parking Trash/dumping
- Crime and Safety (62.5 percent) Property destruction Violence Theft

## Residents’ Hopes for Future Changes in the Neighborhood

- Greater sense of community/neighborliness among residents **(42 percent)**
- Physical improvements **(42 percent)**  
Residents hoped to see neighborhood beautification, restoration, clean-up) 90 percent stated that they would like see a neighborhood clean-up
- Improved Infrastructure **(26 percent)**  
Concerns focused on the need to repair buildings, sidewalks, roads, and provide more lighting.
- Improved Housing **(29 percent)**  
better quality, more home ownership, more family-style housing, increased landlord responsiveness)
- More child-friendly environment **(13 percent)**