

2006 Community Assessment Follow-up

“Other” Responses

The 2006 Community Assessment included a list of possible choices in three different areas; Best Things About the Community, Health and Wellness Concerns, and Community Problems. Respondents were given the option of writing in responses not included in the list of options in the “Other” space. Comments written-in include the following as entered in the survey:

BEST THINGS ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY

PEOPLE:

1. The lake.
2. People care about the environment.
3. Teenagers are respectful.
4. Beautiful lake/mountains.
5. Too busy making ends meet to get involved with community improvement.
6. Scenery.
7. Community focus on children/family.
8. People generally follow rules.
9. Conservative values still present. Small business.
10. Our community includes many talented artists (musicians, visual artists, writers, etc.).
11. Active acts community.
12. Lots of educated people.
13. Beautiful environment.
14. Love Vermonter's
15. Willingness of everyone pitching in, in a time of need.
16. Access to great healthcare.
17. Most people try to produce some kind of value in the community.
18. Native Vermonters rock.
19. Artistic community is strong.
20. Concern for environment.
21. Small enough, yet many different accessible events.
22. People not concerned about “stuff.”
23. Environment.
24. People mind their own business.
25. Becoming more environmentally conscious.
26. Still has a friendly small town feel.
27. No diversity here.
28. Beauty, events, and 4 seasons.
29. Becoming more conservative.

SERVICES AND RESOURCES:

1. Broad Medicaid eligibility.
2. The outdoors.

3. Support groups are available.
4. The rest is true only if you have money.
5. Entrepreneurial environment.
6. Flynn Center activities and City Market.
7. Recreational opportunities.
8. Many small organizations working toward peace, environment and social concerns.
9. Waterfront and parks!
10. Quality of life amenities.
11. Transportation for medical appointments.
12. State services accessible.
13. Arts and culture opportunities.
14. Social services.
15. Entertainment and culture.
16. Waterfront, bike path, parks and public spaces.
17. Socially responsible businesses (VBSR members, etc.).
18. Lack of commercial areas.
19. At least in state students can attend state colleges...
20. Discourage spiritual connection by overloading Sunday with competing activity.
21. Awesome Parks and Recreation program.
22. Accessible outdoor activities.
23. Outdoors are accessible.
24. Intervale, YMCA.
25. Faith community.
26. Human services network.
27. Library.
28. Community works to care for kids.
29. Arts.
30. Lots of community service organizations.
31. LOCAL farming, food, arts, crafts.
32. Art and cultural activities.
33. The arts and cultural opportunities.
34. Many outdoor activities.
35. Human Service and Health Care system.
36. Downtown parking should be free. Restaurants and stores too expensive for local residents. Co-op (City Market) is not priced for the average Burlington resident. Education is out priced for Vermont residents.
37. Skiing.
38. Excellent social service system network.
39. Environmental awareness.
40. I've heard patients and staff complain about food at FAHC cafeteria.
41. Need more variety.
42. Nonprofit service organizations, art organizations.
43. Recreation.
44. Alternative health options.
45. Recreation.
46. Beautiful landscape, mountains, lake, access to serene settings.

47. Lake Champlain.
48. Church community.
49. Overall quality of life.
50. Thriving arts community.
51. Special services for special needs population.
52. Need for more ADHD parental workshops and support.
53. Proximity to Canada.
54. Proximity to lakes, mountains, woods, bike paths for recreation.
55. Shelters available.
56. Outdoor recreation.
57. Youth Services.
58. Multiple organizations available to help the needs of people of all ages, from childhood to senior citizen.

GEOGRAPHIC SETTING:

1. Like it all.
2. No houses on hills like Colorado.
3. Our lakes used to be clear.
4. No billboards.
5. Weather – winters too long.
6. Cigarette butt littering is growing environmental problem.
7. I believe we have the best of all worlds in Burlington and surrounding area.
8. Efforts to control urban and suburban sprawl.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Solitude.
2. Some activities are free.
3. Range of other health classes, i.e. yoga, Pilates, dance.
4. Friendly private aviation environment.
5. Slower pace, less activities.
6. Too many events.
7. Strong Parks and Rec program.
8. West African dance and yoga.
9. Wonderful lecture series via Burlington College, UVM, etc. and opportunities for civic engagement.
10. Fishing and hunting.
11. YMCA.
12. Beaches should be free for Burlington residents; also parking at the waterfront for residents is outrageous. Again, not enough free parking.
13. YMCA programming for families.
14. Higher Ground concerts.
15. Gardens, including community gardens.
16. Skiing.
17. Alcohol free / drug free community.
18. Arts and culture should be broader. A large civic center would be nice for venues.
19. Shelburne Museum nearby.

20. Focus on showcasing and encouraging local talent.
21. Agricultural activities, more rural.
22. Parks.
23. It would be nice to have more bike or walking paths outside of Burlington area for the public.
24. Waterfront / bike path.

QUALITY OF LIFE:

1. Neighborhoods.
2. Access to nature.
3. Neighborhood, though rural has a supportive “old neighborhood” quality to it (families support each other).
4. More crime.
5. Growing too rapidly into faster paced environment.
6. Faith community.
7. Less crime (not little or no).
8. Chance for active outdoor life.
9. Compared to Dallas, TX and San Diego: less emphasis on consumerism; more emphasis on sense of place and spirituality.
10. Less discrimination.
11. Not as safe as in the past. The Old North End needs more police protection and drug enforcement.
12. Clean environment, air, water, etc.
13. Expensive to live here.
14. Creative, energetic, involved citizenry.
15. Relatively few smokers.
16. Too expensive to live.
17. Opportunities to be outside.
18. Fitness oriented.
19. Diversity education.
20. Rural areas close by.

OTHER BEST THINGS ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY:

1. Our community is growing in many ways. Our community seems to be very diverse and accepting of all cultures in many ways. Let’s continue to support that to the best of our ability!
2. There are a lot of supportive parents.
3. General civility.
4. No endemic corruption in government, transparent governance.
5. We pay attention to quality of life issues and bother to ask these types of questions.
6. Flynn Performing Arts Center, access to Montreal, many human services.
7. As a small state with a small population, by comparison with other states, we are enabled to make a difference. All we need to is engage ourselves with our citizen legislature and we, as individuals can make a difference in our lives, in our community, in our state, and sometimes beyond our state borders. In Vermont, even the meek can be heard.
8. Community consistently responds to people “in need” whether individuals or groups.

9. The email forum we have here at five sister's keeps about 200 families well connected on the details of our neighborhood.
10. Small enough to feel that government is approachable. Neighborhood groups can make changes in zoning, business placement, etc. in their neighborhood. Feeling of solidarity about local issues, ex. Bike paths, waterfront plans, City Market.
11. More recreational opportunities for exercise than any other area in New England. The YMCA!
12. Ethan Allen Park and Lake Champlain.
13. Big city amenities, small town feel, nature at your doorstep.
14. Low traffic density, rural setting, healthful environment.
15. Diverse community, lots of problems to be solved, it is changing.
16. Health care for all.
17. Lots of talented people live here – some even commute to jobs to NYC; Howard Frank Moshier; the Flynn; Burlington City Arts; King Street Youth Center; well trained support staff.
18. No one religious group is allowed to dominate or bully others.
19. Distinct concern for the health and wellbeing of the community, especially the socially and economically marginalized populations.
20. Sense that things are manageable, focus on the environment.
21. Less in the way of natural disasters to worry about. A good snowstorm to keep everyone home once in a while is actually welcome!
22. Accessibility.
23. Tolerance. Interesting people.
24. Boat access on the lake; Flynn theater and other cultural events.
25. Strong sense of community and a feeling that everyone can make a difference.
26. Easy access to governmental representatives.
27. We have good after-school programs in all our public schools.
28. Back roads – alternative routes.
29. Progressive City concerned about all of its citizens. Affordable housing, great schools, recreation, waterfront, downtown.
30. The four seasons of the year are important to keeping one vibrant and interested in one's surroundings.
31. Quiet, can sit outdoors when it is nice and no one bothers you.
32. Vermont City Marathon, Africans living in Vermont, refugee populations.
33. Balance of life, work, outdoors, community (unlike city-life, which is very work driven) – so much energy (activities, presence in marketplace) for such a small community.
34. Progressive politics.
35. Strong non-profit community.
36. Variety of quality music of all types, support of local products, organic growers and use of organic cheeses and breads.
37. Vibrant network of non-profit community organizations improve quality of life in the environmental, cultural, historic, human and social services, and civic arenas.
38. A wonderful Family Community Center assessable to all and surrounding counties.
39. Capability to walk from one end of town to the other; also, inventive ways for handicapped to enjoy the environment.

40. Entrepreneurial culture, accessibility of making a difference, having a small, local airport with quick access to major cities.
41. Milton Family Community Center.
42. Ability to make a difference.
43. Near major cities.
44. Active, diverse faith communities.
45. Proximity to NYC, Boston, Montreal, but yet still removed from the city.
46. I love the Burlington area and VT in general. Crowds, traffic jams and random acts of violence make me nervous. We don't have many of those problems here.
47. Community leaders who care deeply about the wellbeing of communities and institutions.
48. People still "talk" to each other about areas of controversy, and make an attempt to understand the perspective of others (the culture of 'town meeting').
49. An active United Way. ECHO! The ability to find the best of both city and rural life.
50. The Intervale and other local CSA farms; Local Motion and bike trails; big trees, small highways; the sunsets over the Lake; People who care/civic engagement – town meeting; voting that counts (paper trail); Instant runoff voting in Burlington; our local politicians Bob Kiss (yay!), Pete Clavelle, Bernie Sanders, Dave Zuckerman.
51. Plethora of non-profits providing essential and support services to community.
52. Small scale organic farms, farmers markets, community gardens.
53. I absolutely love Vermont.
54. Proximity to larger areas (Montreal, Boston, etc.).
55. It is good to see more family owned property and children playing outside.
56. We are fortunate to have United Way of Chittenden County, as they are outstanding in supporting our community.
57. People are honest. When you need services, you can generally assume that you will not be "ripped off."
58. People care.
59. The collaborations that exist in the community, i.e. FAHC, YMCA, United Way, School Districts, governments...
60. Our rural/urban mix. We are still in a relatively rural setting, but have many urban-style cultural advantages. First Night Burlington is a prime example of the mix!
61. Bernie Sanders, involved citizens, liberal progressive majority (I hope).
62. I love Vermont.
63. Hi. There is too much litter in Vt. roadsides. I live in Canada, and many residents don't seal bags containing household waste. They expect All Cycle to haul away their textiles (blankets etc.). Most Vermonters don't scoop dog poop. They don't understand that animal feces pollutes watersheds. Flatlanders trashed their native Mass, NJ, NY etc. and their behavior doesn't change when they arrive in the Green Mountain State. They are intoxicated by the beauty and take it for granted. Fairies and elves don't pick up trash in the middle of the night. Concerned citizens know it is a privilege to live here and not a right.
64. This is a community where an individual can make a great difference. I know because I do and my wife does.... But it takes a great investment of time and desire to give.
65. So much to offer and always looking for ways to improve.
66. It's not a "red" state – we have a good alternative newspaper.
67. Visual artists.

68. Growing fast, but not too fast keeping the Vermont landscape and mentality. Most people are independent and trustworthy.
69. Outlying communities rich in independence.
70. Politically and socially caring for others (e.g. civil unions), opposition to war in Iraq.
71. Sense of pride and ownership in being a Vermonter.
72. Plenty of opportunity to learn, work, things to do, good services.
73. Close proximity to larger metropolitan areas.
74. Focus on fresh food and supporting local economy.
75. Volunteer spirit is high.
76. Alternative fuel sources being introduced (wind, veggie, oil, solar, etc.).
77. Close proximity between urban working/ shopping environment and great recreational opportunities.
78. Ability to walk safely – side walks. Access to farm markets for organic produce.
79. Variety of social services to meet needs.
80. For the most part, air is clean. Most places are non smoking. Few lines to wait in as compared to other places.
81. Bus service to work is great.
82. I love the liberal attitude of this community.
83. Family. Slower pace of life than other communities.
84. Overall small size of Burlington and surrounding towns.
85. Vermont City Marathon, GMAA, live music.
86. Intervale / organic and local food producers.
87. Proximity to Montreal and Boston.
88. It'd not New Jersey.
89. Accessible airport.
90. Small size neighborhoods. Local organic food. Environmentally minded.
91. Reputation of quality of State of Vermont.
92. Higher paying jobs close to rural, old style Vermont.
93. Local independent media sources such as Seven Days and uncensored public
94. access television programming.
95. We're unique.
96. Colleagues and friends.
97. Good communication about what goes on in our community via a variety of venues – radio, newspapers, etc.
98. Short distance to beautiful countryside and outdoor events unlike bigger cities.
99. Ability to become involved in community decisions.
100. Boys and Girls club for youth.
101. Many outdoor opportunities for teens.
102. Close to Quebec. Strong civic / sustainable development values.
103. Not too busy or crowded (yet).
104. Close to Montreal.
105. Great variety of natural and organic marketplaces, as well as local organic farmers markets.
106. Quiet lifestyle.
107. Sense of cultural diversity and freedom that other areas in this country do not have.
108. Emphasis on local agriculture, abundance of organic local foods, quality produce from other climates (i.e. non indigenous veggies shipped in from all over world).

109. Burlington community gardens.
110. The rural nature of the landscape coupled with the cultural opportunities within the local setting provide a strong foundation for parents to raise well rounded socially responsible families.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS CONCERNS

HEALTH CARE ISSUES:

1. Counterproductive Medicaid rules encouraging/forcing people to not work or underbid wages to keep coverage.
2. Lack of experience in Autism completely.
3. Lack of understanding of the causes of these issues.
4. FAHC IS KNOWN FOR ITS LACK OF PRIVACY. I AM VERY UPSET WITH FAHC AND HAVE CHOSEN TO TAKE MY HEALTH CARE ELSEWHERE. IT IS INTERESTING WHEN EXAMINING OTHER OPTIONS THAT I HAVE USED FAHC.
5. Disconnect of Health Care system to real people and their health concerns.
6. Limited specialists in specific areas...spinal cord injury, pain management.
7. Lack of mental health services – esp. Psychiatry/Psych NPs/Pas.
8. Splintered delivery process; high cost all aspects.
9. Many doctors not accepting new patients.
10. We need more psychiatrists.
11. Lack of community conversation about healthy sexuality.
12. FAHC not contracting with all insurers (United Health Care).
13. Insurance to cover alternative approaches.
14. Lack of coverage for naturopathic medicine.
15. Lack of FREE prevention services. Ex. Free breast exams, checkups, physicals, etc. for low income.
16. Substance abuse.
17. Universal, single payer, health insurance for all with an emphasis on prevention rather than intervention.
18. Attention to risk mgt. at hospitals needed.
19. Lack of pt. education with health care issues. Too much paperwork to be done for insurances and justifying for diagnostic testing ordered by provider. Too much red tape.
20. HIV/AIDS.
21. Dreadful possibility of Universal Health Care.
22. LACK OF PSYCHIATRISTS.
23. Not enough funding.
24. High infection rate at Fletcher Allen.
25. FAHC has no physical room to grow so is falling behind Dartmouth Hospital who foresaw the importance of building main facility outside of the City area. Perhaps FAHC should have moved to Fanny Allen.
26. The quality of health care provided varies dramatically, e.g. neurology is not good in Burlington, pulmonary is inadequate and unskilled at FAHC, we have had to go to Dartmouth Hitchcock for several services.

27. Lack of HIV/AIDS awareness.
28. Lack of organization within the system – long waits, same questions asked by several Drs. And nurses, etc.
29. Having to pay for parking at FAHC.
30. Lack of child psychiatrists.
31. Lack of services for disability community.
32. Lack of community support to breastfeed as first line of prevention – should support women in initiating breastfeeding and women returning to work to increase the duration of breastfeeding.
33. Prevention programs being cut.
34. Lack of centrally administered insurance program.
35. Nursing shortage.
36. Concerns about long-term care costs of FAHC building and how it will affect health care for years.
37. High cost of health care.
38. Impossibility of identifying total cost of any specific medical treatment in advance to compare costs.
39. Lack of health care system not reliant on insurance industry.
40. Generally poor quality of care at Fletcher Allen.
41. Lack of compassionate care.
42. Healthcare cost is a problem not insurance.
43. Permanent physicians.
44. FAHC's lack of focus on holistic care.
45. Healthcare as "big business" within the health care community.
46. High cost of medical care.
47. My daughters are grown and have no insurance.
48. Specifically need for more psychiatrists.
49. Prevention and catastrophic healthcare coverage should be provided to everyone in Vermont! Heath care coverage is the single biggest worry in my family's financial life.
50. Length of time required to get in to see specialists or to get required services like MRIs.
51. An inefficient medical bureaucracy that drives up costs.
52. Medical providers and dentists refusing Medicaid or refugee patients.
53. High cost and bureaucratic attitudes.
54. Lack of psychiatrists.
55. At Fletcher Allen, people in "leadership" roles are out-of-touch with core patient/client groups because they are typically not subjected to the same issues. They don't understand "Vermont" culture, are typically affluent, and unsympathetic to needs of majority they should be serving.
56. Fletcher Allen hierarchy making too much money at non-profit hospital while cutting needed jobs/employees that help actually run and help initiate programs and passing on costs to patients.
57. Lack of child psychiatrists.
58. Due to large influx of people in our state, we need more hospitals.
59. Lack of transportation for patients.
60. Very expensive even with insurance.
61. Lack of universal health care supported by non-profit vs. insurance companies.

62. Lack of electronic medical records system.
63. There have been times when I have gone without insurance when I was between jobs. Also, the nursing shortage worries me.
64. Lack of respect for patients.
65. Lack of specialists and medical experts.
66. Lack of support by physicians to help us be more proactive with our own health.
67. We see and read information and then ask for preventative testing and can't get it.
68. Lack of expertise in certain medical specialties – must go to Boston or Dartmouth for serious illnesses because local specialists are not as qualified or skilled.
69. People need help staying healthy and restoring their health.
70. Barriers to treatment for mental health, including exclusive managed care panels.
71. Lack of ownership by patients for their own health.
72. Lack of appropriate use settings; it is crazy to have access to a tertiary care facility for weekend, evenings, or after hours care (the ED) when community based nurse run clinics could be locally established.
73. Lack of insurance of middle class on the verge of poverty.
74. Loopholes in health coverage.
75. Poor benefits mental health.
76. Turning a profit more important than people's health.
77. The nursing shortage is a big issue. Nurses are a key component in collaboration of care. They are the ones that interact with all disciplines for the patient.
78. Lack of physician one on one time.
79. Lack of child psychiatry services.
80. Lack of lower premiums for healthy lifestyles.
81. Low quality of care.
82. Lack of being able to put domestic partners on health insurance policies unless your civil union.
83. Dentists want their money up front for crowns, etc. I have 2 broken teeth that needs crowns, cannot afford to pay \$800 out of my pocket for these.
84. Need freedom of access to alternative practitioners.
85. Lack of insurance options, (e.g. HSA's).
86. People do not take care of themselves.
87. Mental health access for children.
88. It can take weeks to get an appointment, even if you work here.
89. Parking at FAHC.
90. Lack of good medical care.
91. No 24 hour pharmacy in Burlington.
92. I have never seen so much poly-substance abuse in a community before.
93. Lack of family doctor small clinics (no real relationship with family doctor).
94. Cost of healthcare (not insurance) is growing too fast.
95. Lack of paramedic EMS system.
96. Lack of understanding the complexities of healthcare finance.
97. Cost FAHC parking garage.
98. High cost for us working in a healthcare facility.
99. High cost of medical appointments.
100. Lack of customer service focus at FAHC.

101. Limited availability of psychiatrists.
102. Parking at FAHC.
103. When diagnosed with a disease, one may have to wait a month to see a specialist for the first time.
104. Public's not so glowing view of ACC – parking charges, large size, etc.
105. High cost of both insurance and prescriptions.

SUBSTANCE USE AND ABUSE:

1. High number of providers incorrectly profiling patients (particularly at low-income clinics like CHCB) as drug abusers solely on what medications they take.
2. Parents are users and provide substance or alcohol to youth.
3. NARCOTIC ABUSE; THIS IS A REAL PROBLEM WITHIN THE HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY.
4. Lack of services and inflexibility of those available.
5. Non-enforcement.
6. Prevalence seems hidden.
7. Advent of Crystal Meth.
8. Heroin abuse.
9. Drunk driving.
10. No teen residential programs in Chittenden County.
11. Meth.
12. Still culture of use, needs to change.
13. Ineffective tx of drinking and driving.
14. Lack of willingness of political and civic leaders to truly admit there is a problem.
15. Please support Drug Courts – they work and save \$\$\$\$.
16. In my opinion, the “substance abuse” problem is there but overblown. Authorities dedicate too much of our scarce resources to this problem.
17. Lack of prevention and proper intervention services.
18. I see a lot of folks in and out of services and then they return (I know this is part of recovery). Are we offering all we can as health providers.
19. Lack of treatment programs especially for mothers with young children.
20. We need to deal with underlying socio-economic and mental health issues to combat drug issues – not just keep putting band-aids on the wound and not getting to the root of the problem.
21. The number of drug dealers increases all the time.
22. Smoking, smoking, smoking.
23. Have many programs to help those who are not able to help themselves.
24. Adults and parents use of drugs with rationalization that their kids have no idea. WRONG! And that drugs are no different than when I was a teen.
25. Burlington has a strong heroin use population. Are there enough services to counteract this addiction, or prevent it.
26. Marijuana use very pervasive, even among professionals.
27. Lack of effective systems to assist those who have dealt with legal ramifications of past drug use to be able to have proper access and help getting back on their feet without constant issues hindering them.
28. Culture of alcohol abuse, underage drinking.

29. Too much junk food in out midst, including Pepsi machines all over FAHC – not very exemplary.
30. Lack of abuse issues for all people.
31. Drunk / high UVM students who are belligerent, loud, drive drunk, vandalize property, and never seem to face any consequences.
32. Obesity.
33. Lack of available rehab programs.
34. Teen alcohol abuse.
35. Prescription drug abuse.
36. Lack of appropriate drug treatment facilities in VT.
37. No state rehab long-term.

PHYSICAL HEALTH:

1. Handicap accessible recreational facilities and activities.
2. Stress, lifestyle too busy.
3. Lack of public education.
4. Low income so not getting high quality of food products. Less fresh fruits and veggies and more canned.
5. Lack of recess for middle school.
6. Lack of partnership in dealing with this issue (i.e. physical health).
7. Effective and abundant public transportation so people can drive less.
8. Necessity of exercise.
9. I do not believe there are any physical health issues here.
10. Lack of school priorities: PE and Nutrition Ed.
11. Ignorance of preventive life style.
12. Not enough physical education classes in school.
13. Need for more “life style” programs in schools and in work place.
14. Need for more bike/ped paths.
15. Need indoor public pools that offer a “pay per swim” option!
16. Lack of restaurants and shops that provide health eating alternatives – low fat/no fat, vegan, quality vegetarian, etc.
17. Snow in winter prohibits my favorite activities – biking, walking, running.
18. Lack of opportunity for families to participate in physical activity together.
19. Poverty.
20. Light the whole bike path all year long.
21. Lack of prevention.
22. Have anyone ever looked at physical health (i.e. obesity) and related it to socio-economic status?
23. High cost of healthy food.
24. Lack of physical education time in schools.
25. Physical activity needs to be promoted more in the community and in the work place – start with incentive programs to get people more active.
26. We need more healthy restaurants, not all fast food places.
27. Need more bike paths everywhere.
28. TV.

29. Perhaps Obesity prevention could be taught as mini-service at the hospital, or brought to the schools in conjunction with the Health Department.
30. People with horrible dental hygiene.
31. Indoor tracks too expensive.
32. Accessibility of exercise facilities for the disabled.
33. Lack of indoor pools easily accessible for community.
34. Lack of preventative care and lifestyle change.
35. Direct physical effects of poverty on physical health (lack of knowledge or sense of hopelessness).
36. Lack of paced bike paths in rural communities for roller-blading etc.
37. Employees that smoke and bring the second hand smoke back to the workplace.
38. High cost of healthy food.
39. Lack of time to exercise or eat healthy.
40. Nutrition and exercise emphasis is schools.
41. Lack of gym in school settings.
42. Time should be given during the work day for employees to be active.
43. Lack of health related motivation for the disenfranchised.
44. Need to continue to expand walk / bike options.
45. Lack of public resting areas in stores for disabled people.
46. Lack of affordable exercise facilities.
47. Small groups qualifying for reduced / free screenings i.e. my Grandma no longer gets free mammograms because she is above the age cut-off. She is still a woman with breasts!

EFFECTS OF ECONOMIC PROBLEMS:

1. Lack of advancement opportunities via education for adults/adult basic education and beyond!
2. Not enough awareness about disabilities such as Autism.
3. Apathy.
4. Poor climate for business.
5. I don't know how Burlington is going to support the number of refugees that are moving here. I like the diversity, and find many to be hardworking, but many are supported by the state – I just wonder.
6. Anti-business sentiment.
7. State could be a better employer of disabled people.
8. Education and prevention.
9. Concern that good jobs are not controlled by companies based in VT.
10. I work often with the homeless population and think it is not widely known that a lot of our homeless are transplants that come here for access to health care, free meals, etc.
11. Alcohol/substance abuse.
12. Lack of affordable child care.
13. Tax policy doesn't match community priorities to address these needs. Can't do livable wage and other initiatives without a corresponding change in tax policy. Need to start at the Federal level.
14. Need to be creative.
15. Youth leaving our area.
16. Not enough mass transportation to all of Chittenden County.

17. Again, health insurance – at least catastrophic and preventive – for everyone.
18. Middle class is quickly becoming the lower class with high costs, middle class cannot continue to fund the impoverished.
19. Lack of affordable high quality child care.
20. Poor education.
21. High taxes.
22. Culture of poverty does not have enough models of how real educational opportunities can be.
23. Outrageous taxes .
24. 18 months to 2 years wait for Section 8.
25. Need more public transportation; it's obscene that Colchester is not part of CCTA; FAHC should consider pressuring/ subsidizing Colchester into the system to reduce the need to drive cars to work from Colchester.
26. Lack of employment services for people transitioning off of disability.
27. Huge portion of population on welfare (not paying taxes) and high cost of utilities (phone, electric, etc.
28. Headstart program.
29. Cost of gas is freaking me out. Can't afford to drive to work anymore and my wages are not keeping up with inflation.
30. Vermont, especially the Burlington area, cost of living is becoming out of control.
31. Lack of housing with services for elderly.
32. Education level.
33. Lack of health insurance or high cost.
34. Some patients overburden the healthcare system that reduces access to the system for others.
35. High taxes that stifle economic development. Too much red tape i.e. the fact that Lowes has been tied up in court for years trying to open a store in South Burl.
36. The cost of living vs. salary is unconscionable. People to choose between heat or goods, medicine or rent, and social services do not meet those needs most often.

VIOLENCE:

1. Lack of drug treatment programs to prevent crime.
2. Influence of video games and TV.
3. Not enough attention to male verbal abuse to women, even mentioning all the physical abuse.
4. Violence/harassment in schools.
5. General lack of respect for others.
6. Toward Earth in regards to using land unwisely.
7. No alternative ways to teach about conflict resolution in early education.
8. Too many foster kids and kids who need good homes.
9. Animal abuse.
10. Child abuse by lack of health care.
11. Media violence (TV, toys, screen games).
12. Concerns about follow through by state on child abuse and neglect issues. Understaffed and under funded.
13. Violence in media.

14. Lack of values.
15. Child neglect by community.
16. Child neglect..
17. Lack of gun control laws; too easy to own automatic weapons.
18. What we are doing as a nation and as individuals in far off places to support our global consumerism and energy-insensitive lifestyles.
19. Bigotry and lack of tolerance for differences.
20. Specifically graffiti.
21. Sexual violence.
22. Community violence is on the rise.
23. Child neglect.
24. I feel violence is a trickle down problem that is born at a federal level. It will be hard for communities to heal unless the larger picture is attended to.
25. Sexual / emotional abuse.
26. Increasing due to drugs.
27. Road rage.
28. Child neglect.
29. Animal abuse and cruelty.
30. Horizontal violence in the workplace.
31. Violent crime seems very high relative to size of population.
32. Verbal abuse / violence in schools.
33. Harassment in schools.
34. Increased drug abuse leading to more crime.
35. Elderly neglect.
36. Passive acceptance.
37. Animal abuse and neglect.
38. Violent playboy games / movies.
39. DUI and other auto violation fatalities.
40. Animal cruelty.
41. Drug Abuse.
42. Lack of domestic support system in communities.
43. Vandalism.
44. We need more prevention in the school system to start teaching our children early on. It's a crime and people should not take it.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION:

1. Limited recycling.
2. Agricultural pollution.
3. Littering cigarette butts.
4. Mass medicating with fluoride.
5. Little awareness of PEAK oil and its ramifications.
6. Agricultural runoff into rivers and lake.
7. Land use – sprawl.
8. Use trash to generate electricity.
9. The war in Iraq is polluting the environment and people's minds.
10. Sprawl need a checkmark on its own, not in combination with industrial waste!

11. Global dimming.
12. Suburban sprawl, the root cause of much auto emissions/global warming.
13. We do not have the road systems and mass transit systems to sustain the projected growth creating an overdependence on personal modes of transportation – specifically cars.
14. Farm pollution, overfeeding waterways.
15. We need improved public transportation.
16. Over consumption of material non reusable goods.
17. The New York tire incinerator must be stopped.
18. Rural housing with sanitation / trash issues.
19. High taxes should equal free trash pick up.
20. Cigarette butts are litter, secondhand smoke is a health problem.
21. Smokers continue to treat the world as their ashtray, contaminating our streets, beaches, and parks with their butts and toxic smoke.
22. Too much diesel emissions from busses idling; need better enforcement of no smoking policies.
23. Lack of program for alternate sources of fuel for cars.
24. Housing pollution (developers etc.).
25. High rate of cancer in Vermont.
26. Cigarette butts carelessly disposed of.
27. Fluoride in the water, it's a poison.

MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS:

1. Annual caps on visits/higher co pays under Medicare.
2. Lack of understanding of mental health conditions by community members, not providers.
3. Inadequate financial support for existing mental health service providers.
4. Autism not understood.
5. Real lack of experience, hard time getting services and no real experience with autism.
6. Cost associated with seeing a mental health provider.
7. Access, especially for those with Medicaid, is difficult and sporadic.
8. Pediatric psychiatrists and access to existing services.
9. Poor collaboration with PCPs.
10. Lack of integrated plan to address mental health.
11. Insurance companies have too much control over duration of mental health coverage. It should be a doctor's call.
12. Lack of medical knowledge re: mental health.
13. Lack of funding.
14. Unempowered youth with little direction.
15. Insufficient funding for mental health services.
16. Affordability of mental healthcare.
17. Mental health providers case loads are too high.
18. HOWARD'S "CRISIS HOTLINE" IS/HAS BEEN A JOKE. IT IS SHAMEFUL THAT A CITY THIS SIZE HAS ONLY THAT ONE PLACE TO TURN TO IN TIMES OF PSYCH. CRISIS. IT IS TIME TO OVERHAUL IT.
19. Low funding for services and salaries.
20. Lack of practitioners well-versed in attachment therapy.

21. Providers underpaid and punished for extra work.
22. Lack of psychiatrists for children.
23. Stigma about MH issues.
24. Uninsured people with mental health issues (including prescription coverage).
25. Over prescribing psychoactive drugs.
26. Low wages for providers.
27. Funding challenges for mental health treatment.
28. Lack of children's services.
29. Lack of qualified providers who take Medicaid.
30. Services for women w/postpartum depression / counselors & support for infant loss.
31. Stigma attached to mental health problems.
32. SAD.
33. Lack of supervision and regular access to medication for chronic mental health issues.
34. Lack of awareness of help.
35. Providers lack links/communication with local communities.
36. State funding of Mental Health Services.
37. Lack of psychiatry.
38. Intolerance.
39. We have an excellent community mental health system that is at risk because of increasing demand and operating costs and decreasing or level government funding.
40. Need more homes/secure place for mentally ill people.
41. Lack of education and societal knowledge about Mental Health.
42. Cost of mental health care and insurance restrictions.
43. Insufficient facilities.
44. Lack of support workers in state systems.
45. Should be more preventative programs to teen crime, possibly less crime if education stops the bad mentality before adulthood.
46. Poor community understanding of issues related to mental health problems.
47. Cost of accessing services w/o insurance.
48. Underpaid mental health workers.
49. A society that says some people don't deserve equal access to healthcare causes stress and depression!
50. Insufficient insurance coverage for mental health services such as stress reduction, grief recovery, and post traumatic stress disorders – the approval process is bureaucratic.
51. Mental health patients homeless.
52. Elder mental health services too limited.
53. Long waiting lists for care.
54. Addiction.
55. Getting appointments.
56. Very limited child mental health workers.
57. Lack of providers able to serve diverse population.
58. Lack of affordable prevention and intervention services.
59. Insurance issues related to mental health. Social stigma that prevent people from accessing services.

60. I would like to stress; STRESS. The economy is bad, health costs are excessive, we are at war, there is threat of nuclear war – yes mental health is a high concern for our community.
61. Lack of child mental health services to nip it in the bud early and not have it progress into adulthood issues.
62. Less RX's for stressed or depressed people.
63. Cost of mental health care.
64. Need for sex therapists in area.
65. Psychiatric / homeless people.
66. Expensive to live which causes both depression and stress for a lot of people.
67. Insurance limitations for ongoing mental health problems.
68. The lack of clarity around what will happen after the state hospital closes.
69. Too many providers want “neat” cases and no Medicaid.
70. Not enough quality providers for adolescent issues.
71. Shortage of psychiatrists.
72. SADD.
73. Insurance coverage is limited for mental health.
74. There isn't a lack of services, but more would be better.
75. Depression due to long winter / lack of sunlight.
76. Lack of available psychiatrists in the area to refer patients to. Also, high rates of seasonal affective disorder in patients due to harsh climate, lack of light.
77. Exclusive managed care panels which restrict membership to qualified providers, lack of parity in treatment of mental health issues.
78. Lack of insurance coverage of Christian Counselors.
79. Mental health treatment costs more than treatment for medical problems.
80. Need more prevention programs.
81. Lack of funding for otherwise good services.
82. Low reimbursement rates for providers from managed care companies.
83. Insurance limiting access to treatment.
84. Managed care.
85. Places so the mental concerns can live until they can survive on their own.
86. Poor access.
87. Lack of services / funding for developmental disabilities.
88. Need for ADHD support . workshops for parents and children.
89. Continued lack of integration of behavioral health with physical medicine; they are interconnected but managed separately.
90. Some from crisis just don't like doing what they do.
91. Discrimination against the mentally ill.
92. Vermont has a terrible psychiatrist shortage.
93. Too many government related health institutions.
94. Access to needed therapy, intensive OP treatment, paid by insurance.
95. Child services.
96. Lack of insurance or funds for some people to obtain services.
97. Lack of school counselors.
98. Lack of aftercare programs / housing.
99. Lack of parity between mental and physical health.

100. Lack of funding / insurance for mental health care.
101. Existing programs cannot handle the number of patients that need to be served.
102. Some people never seem to get better.
103. Stress among young children.
104. Lack of support groups within communities.
105. Negative stigma associated with mental health.
106. Lack of youth mental health services.
107. Waiting time to see a mental health care provider is weeks and months.
108. Emergency psych service good, long term follow through seems poor.
109. PT's get lost, fall thru cracks.

ILLNESS:

1. Impoverishment due to acquiring an "expensive" illness.
2. Women's health.
3. Brain injury.
4. Supporting physical/learning disabilities in rural setting.
5. Old age care.
6. Poor physical fitness (leads to everything else).
7. Unhealthy lifestyles in general.
8. Breast cancer rates are too high in VT.
9. No real impetus to take care of ourselves holistically in order to curtail physical illness including dealing with stress, emotional issues, etc.
10. Potential for bird flu pandemic.
11. Lead poisoning in children.
12. Mental health.
13. Mental.
14. Dementia.
15. Alcohol and cigarette use.
16. Smoking.
17. Preventable illness (obesity)
18. Mental health.
19. Drug addiction.
20. More education about end of life care and DPOA's.
21. High rates of some cancers/autism.
22. People not responsible for self-management, especially prevention of worsening conditions by obesity, lack of exercise, smoking.
23. Need more specific HPV awareness and education – more inclusive of males and how they transmit to partners while being unable to get tested them selves.
24. Obesity.
25. Chronic diseases account for 75% of health care costs, and many are preventable, so let's prevent them (more exercise, local healthy foods in schools, employer and state incentives – get creative.).
26. Dementia and Alzheimer's.
27. Over all well-being.
28. Lack of preparation for pandemic.
29. MENTAL HEALTH!

30. We have a lot of cancer in VT.
31. Lack of information in some, in a world full of information.
32. Mental health is illness.
33. Health and Wellness Education.
34. Obesity.
35. Asthma.
36. Drug dependence.
37. All the modifiable risks that are not being addressed.
38. Obesity is rampant.
39. Obesity.
40. Obesity.
41. Depression.
42. Smoking related.
43. Diseases related to pollution of environment.
44. Employees coming in to work sick and spreading it to co-workers.
45. Little importance given to prevention.
46. The high rate of TB pts coming Vermont and being tested and treated with antibiotics.
47. Growing cases of asthma and allergies.
48. Lack of health coverage.
49. Mental illness really needs to become a priority.
50. Undiagnosed illnesses.
51. Obesity.
52. Chronic arthritis.
53. Autism.
54. Lack of resources for heroin addiction.
55. Preventable diseases.
56. Mental health.

THREATS TO SAFETY:

1. Lack of adequate legal representation for low income/lack of accountability for lies by police officers.
2. Petty crime.
3. Road are not cared for enough in the winter, discrimination in schools and communities against disabled people.
4. I would prefer more attention to crime than to speed traps. And I don't speed but understand the problems associated with speeding.
5. Declining resources which have been taken for granted.
6. Road conditions on a good day are still bad.
7. Drug abuse and related crime.
8. Rash of break-ins in the neighborhoods of Burlington.
9. Discrimination and exclusion of disability community.
10. War.
11. Decisions of a fed'l. republican admin.
12. Unmonitored youth.
13. Emotional safety, the clash of youth and young adults with different morals and values.
14. Indifference.

15. We need the circ highway.
16. More funding for safety/security.
17. Denial by leaders of drug problem and ensuing crime.
18. Lack of gun control laws; too easy to purchase, own automatic weapons.
19. Horrible intersection at Swift and Spear streets.
20. Police seem to spend too much time ticketing speeders and not enough time busting drug dealers and child molesters. Funny how one activity generates money for the state while the other costs money.
21. Addictions leading to crime.
22. Lack of handicap accessibility to all buildings.
23. Diminishing sense of community.
24. Reckless driving by younger population; unsafe driving by elderly (vision and hearing related).
25. Rising drug use leading to crime.
26. Lack of police presence in rural areas.
27. Lack of safe walking space.
28. We need more police in Burlington, Winooski.....
29. Lack of Education.
30. Danger for women alone after dark.
31. Bird flu potential.
32. Employment security.
33. Xenophobia.
34. Actually, the police have a strong presence in my neighborhood.
35. Cell phone use while driving.
36. I am concerned about school bullying and violence, risk of shootings, etc. in our schools.
37. Crime.
38. Jaywalking is on the rise; esp. in Burlington & FAHC campus.
39. More bike lanes needed for runners and biking.
40. George Bush.
41. Public's complacency and fear.
42. Violence.
43. Lack of support for at risk youth.
44. War in Iraq.
45. Lack of infrastructure, upkeep, terrible roads, not enough road capacity for vehicles.
46. Ban cell phone while driving!
47. Elderly may need more assistance in bad weather with things such as shopping.
48. Domestic safety issues in the home for adults and children.
49. Crime increasing.
50. Threats to pedestrians and bikers.
51. George Bush.
52. When the police get called and you are still waiting for them to come check on you from a month and a half ago.
53. Terrorism.
54. Gangs and vandalism.
55. Lack of integration against certain races & ethnic groups within the Burlington area – lack of knowledge about each other can create fear.

OTHER HEALTH AND WELLNESS ISSUES:

1. Lack of work accommodations for disabled.
2. We need more education for people regarding our diverse community; race, sexual orientation, multi-cultures. We also need to show that support for them.
3. We really need to have an Autism Clinic in Vermont, we are one of the few states without one and there are huge growing numbers.
4. Junk food in schools.
5. Elderly on fixed income do not have financial access to proper care/exercise facilities, walking is not possible because of arthritic issues.
6. Drug treatment programs.
7. Substance abuse.
8. The burden baby boomers will place on society in the next 30 years.
9. Dementia among the elderly.
10. We need more outreach into other communities to educate people on a personal level to inform them of community services and ways to be checked on early without worrying about the cost of testing...
11. Pay scale for qualifying for Medicaid is too low. Does not match up with pay rate, child care expenses, etc.
12. Low federal and state reimbursement for home health care.
13. Autism.
14. Lack of prevention programs, lack of full-time professional nursing services in all schools.
15. Paying for parking at FAHC.
16. Insufficient support for caregivers of dementia patients.
17. Lack of mental health services for children in crisis, too many children are in custody to seek mental health programs, not enough placements or services for kids with special needs.
18. Over advertising of drugs.
19. Overpopulation in general.
20. After people pay their bills they have none left for health care.
21. While we are busy (and quite good at it) treating existing problems, our investment in true prevention programs is paltry.
22. Not enough health education available to everyone – increased education would address a lot of issues; obesity, communicable diseases, mental health, etc.
23. Lack of teen parent programs.
24. Health insurance, health insurance, health insurance. Too expensive and lack of coverage for all.
25. Too many people are crazy and are not getting treatment.
26. Community leaders must ASK citizens to do specific things to be healthier; connect to incentives; e.g. bike/carpool to work; buy from local farmers, exercise 3X week.
27. Mentally ill do not seem to have the support they need.
28. Working 2 to 3 jobs leave little time for attention to wellness.
29. Homelessness.
30. High cost of care at FAHC; FAHC's virtual monopoly on health care in our community.
31. Too much soda.
32. Education.
33. Lack of TBI awareness.

34. Seasonal effective disorder.
35. High cost of all services at FAHC, even with insurance.
36. The gap between earned wages of some as compared to others percentage wise.
37. Equal global access to health care should be a right, just like public education.
38. Public and community health; too much emphasis on heroic vs. primary care medicine.
39. Need alternative health options as part of our healthcare system.
40. Internet predators.
41. Excessive noise and substance abuse in college student areas.
42. Need better access to affordable healthy foods in workplace; too much junk food; high trans fat, etc.
43. Condoms in school, for students.
44. Stress of current government, world wide safety concerns.
45. There needs to be alternative health care research so that insurance companies will pay for prevention and alternative remedies. FAHC should not restrict payments to only those affiliated with them.
46. Managed care / managed care obstacles.
47. College students reckless with parties. Also significant presence of drugs, more violence and gun use in community.
48. Affordability of alternative health care practices.
49. Filthy sidewalks in Burlington.
50. SUV's – size/ weight, bumper height, lack of maneuverability, roll-overs, drivers vision impairment,.....they are deadly.
51. People who need medications for depression or other mental illnesses that can not get medications because they cannot afford them or insurance.
52. Need more available supports and assists for the elderly as they are increasing in numbers & many have no help and are at high risk.
53. Lack of universal health coverage complicating many other areas.
54. Lack of healthy activities for teens.
55. Preventative care is not covered by health insurance.
56. Lack of dental care for the poor.
57. High percentage of people that are not rich enough or poor enough to be eligible for private or state health insurance. They have no options at all.
58. Having your PCP listen to your problems, not just hear what they think is wrong.
59. Gas prices / Lack of car pools.
60. Planned parenthood should not be allowed to hurt our youth with their lies about the safety of abortion or the morning after pill or any of their so called "treatments."
61. Lack of community outreach programs to help fight violence, health issues and environmental issues.
62. Length of winter, low temps & conditions make it hard to get sunlight and socialize making S.A.D. so difficult to cope with.

COMMUNITY PROBLEMS

ECONOMIC ISSUES:

1. High property taxes.
2. Poor business climate.
3. Lack of work ethic.
4. Anti-business climate.
5. Cost of child care.
6. Little support for small business owners.
7. Tax structure, permitting process.
8. Educational disparities.
9. The need to maintain economic stability.
10. Middle class paying to support lower class programs, while being unable to qualify for services because they miss the income cut-off. The middle class is quickly disappearing.
11. Lack of affordable child care.
12. The rich are getting richer, the poor are getting poorer.
13. Poor public transportation system.
14. High taxes.
15. Lack of affordable alternative transportation.
16. Wages don't keep pace with the relatively expensive cost of living in this area vs. other parts of the country.
17. Prices of gas at the pump.
18. Fuel prices.
19. Need dentists that will fix your teeth without money up front.
20. High cost of taxes.
21. lack of insurance.
22. High taxes.
23. Increased drug use.
24. Can't afford to work and pay the cost of insurance.
25. Excessive taxation.
26. The need for economic development.

HEALTH ISSUES:

1. Lack of services for children and adults with Autism.
2. Need better training in what foods we should be eating and have those served in schools, restaurants, and sold in markets.
3. Automobile culture/inactivity.
4. No holistic view about taking care of oneself.
5. Rising health care costs.
6. HIV/AIDS.
7. Physical wellness.
8. HIV, STDs.
9. HIV/AIDS.
10. Lack of health insurance.
11. Autism.
12. Breastfeeding not supported as the norm for feeding infants/children – focus on natural diet for infants would provide prevention of many chronic diseases.
13. Senior issues with mental state and needing assisted living but not living there.
14. Children are getting lazier, adults are not making regular activity a priority.

15. Noise pollution.
16. Autism spectrum disorders and the lack of community understanding around these disorders (schools, society, families).
17. Stress and related illnesses and lack of services to help empower people to help themselves.
18. Poor nutrition.
19. Teen depression / abuse.
20. Undiagnosed illnesses.
21. Teenage mental health.
22. High rate of autism.
23. High stress environment.

SERVICES AND RESOURCES:

1. Funding of mental and physical health services.
2. Lack of creativity...
3. FAHC is awful. Per my insurance company they said they had heard several times of others complaining about FAHC and lack of proper health caring for patients.
4. Need to build more handicap accessible places to live.
5. Reforming early education to prevent all of these problems – preventative measures.
6. Reduction of family centered activities.
7. Limited access to recreation: lakes and ponds.
8. Lack of services for gifted children.
9. Lack of planning, funding, vision for services and resources to help low-income families and their children move out of poverty for the long term.
10. University of Vermont is discriminating against Vermont students, not enough funding to remain in the state post secondary system.
11. Lack of services to support breastfeeding.
12. Poor pay for child care providers.
13. Being limited to three choices here will underrate the importance of these issues.
14. Insufficient emphasis on maintaining and upgrading infrastructures.
15. Perception that we have maxed our on taxation and that there is no effort worthy of a new tax. This will ultimately impoverish our quality of life in Vermont.
16. High cost of living including taxes.
17. No public transportation.
18. Implement Drug Courts; saves lots of money!!
19. Educational: forced liberal agendas.
20. High cost and limited availability of family services.
21. Resources for abused/neglected children.
22. Not enough funding for public schools.
23. Too many state employees/managers.
24. Lack of adequate vocational training for students unable to attend college.
25. Not enough providers for mental health.
26. Public transportation to and from other cities close by.
27. Feel hospital is only connection to social assistance for emergency issues.
28. Poor plowing of handicap parking spaces making them inaccessible.
29. Resources for children at risk.

30. Lack of funding developmental disabilities.
31. Lack of public transportation.
32. Services for uninsured.
33. Disparity of quality of education between towns – some are great others are terrible.

DEVELOPMENT AND SPRAWL:

1. Needs of construction companies trumps those who must live near these sites/industrial noise, vibration too early in the morning (6-6:30 am!).
2. Traffic is a major problem in the business districts.
3. Poor cell phone service – need more towers.
4. Not enough land conservation.
5. Lack of Accessible housing.
6. Need more places to walk our dogs off leash and to go swimming with them.
7. Lack of Zoning Enforcement.
8. TOO business friendly. Growth hinges on who has money and power rather than environmental issues. We need to keep the area walkable, bikeable, with more FREE public transportation.
9. Need to concentrate on creating small neighborhoods or communities for a sense of group cohesion and to get exercise going.
10. Little planning for public transportation and resource conservation.
11. Growth coordination between towns.
12. New development when old retail space is vacant (STUPID).
13. Need to balance livable communities with prosperous communities – must encourage development and growth in our downtown, including nightlife businesses like bars and restaurants.
14. Unfriendly business policies for women with young children needing to return to work.
15. Transportation to meet sprawl.
16. Loss of local businesses in downtowns.
17. Counter-productive state/regional regulation.
18. Poor transportation planning.
19. Not enough businesses to meet the needs of families on a middle level income.
20. Need to plan more mixed use and pedestrian friendly (village-like) growth.
21. Too much construction going on at one time.
22. Not enough affordable housing to attract new workers/businesses.
23. Need mixture of business and AFFORDABLE housing for all.
24. Control the growth by setting up area for it.
25. Plans to build taller buildings.
26. Lack of shopping.
27. Sprawl development leading to too many people having to drive too much for work, shopping, school, after school, etc.
28. Needless road projects, e.g. widening Kennedy Drive, when there are potholes everywhere to be fixed and more bike paths needed, more bus stops, and transit frequency needed. Busses should be FREE!
29. Roads/traffic patterns cannot accommodate the number of travelers/commuters.
30. Power line proposal along the Route 7 communities.
31. Developing areas are poorly planned and do not incorporate VT's sense of natural beauty.

32. Lack of affordable and safe housing.
33. Over regulation.
34. Transportation Issues.
35. Need more and better public transportation.
36. People are having to move too far out now. It is not affordable for young people.
37. Housing should be purposeful.
38. Traffic planning.
39. "McMansions" – no need for people to build homes like this.
40. Disconnect between home, work, and social amenities.
41. Lack of alternate roads / traffic congestion.
42. Traffic patterns – more cars and limited road space.
43. This is a very rural state compared to Washington state.
44. Loss of farm land.
45. Lack of sufficient development.
46. Lack of preservation of farm lands, too much housing development.
47. Not enough to do around here in proportion to other states.
48. More shopping centers.
49. Lack of public transportation to meet growth.
50. Need to attract businesses and industries that will provide jobs at a higher income level.
51. Poor traffic planning.
52. Subdivisions as an attempt to avoid sprawl.
53. There isn't enough – I wish there were more businesses and companies.
54. Too many disincentives (regulations, taxes) for doing business here.

CRIME AND VIOLENCE:

1. All crimes of violence.
2. Hate and discrimination; I find many Vermonters to be lacking a true sense of tolerance.
3. All crimes.
4. In the summer, I love the downtown Burlington area, but sometimes get uncomfortable and don't go because of the people that hang out in groups. Maybe it's ok, but it can feel intimidating.
5. I have no experience with this area.
6. Illegal drugs.
7. Overall violent nature of our culture.
8. Animal abuse.
9. Growing drug use problem.
10. Racial profiling by police.
11. Prevalence of date rape drugs.
12. Child abuse.
13. Lack of shared values.
14. Lack of education.
15. Sex crimes against minors.
16. Media's influence in supporting a culture of rape and violence through how it does or doesn't report.
17. Drug courts save money. Use them. Drug-related crime will go down. Incarcerations will go down. Thanks for listening.

18. Common driving negligence.
19. ALL acts of aggression against women and children in addition to rape...domestic violence, discrimination, harassment, etc.
20. All sexualized violence, including rape.
21. Child abuse.
22. Discrimination.
23. ATV's, hunters, trespassing, paintball / egging homes.
24. Child abuse.
25. Gender related violence.
26. Racism.
27. Teen support.
28. Crimes against children and animals.
29. Drug related violence.

PEOPLE'S ATTITUDES:

1. People spending time with their computers instead of other people.
2. Neighbors not welcoming.
3. I have heard recently about some very intimidating behavior toward some of the refugees from Africa. It was in regard to high school aged kids.
4. "Vermonters" vs. Non Natives.
5. Lack of respect for others/differing viewpoints.
6. Need for embracing differences.
7. Socioeconomics determine above values, not true among general.
8. Prejudice and discrimination against people with disabilities.
9. Lack of acceptance of differences.
10. Disengagement with political process.
11. Anti-Catholic feeling.
12. Language barriers.
13. People expect something for nothing.
14. Permissiveness/political correctness.
15. People too busy/stressed out to care about or participate in civic responsibilities like voting.
16. Ignorant protests following media releases.
17. VT's population is often seen as ignorant and close-minded due to the lack of social and cultural diversity.
18. Lack of acceptance for diverse political and socio-economic backgrounds.
19. Too much focus on "me" rather than common good.
20. Disengagement from political process/lack of community involvement by many.
21. Vermonters can't afford to live here. Out of staters drive up property prices, high cost of energy, etc.
22. People moving to the Vermont area and wanting it to be like the out of state area that they left.
23. Phonies.
24. I think that many people are nice and are not prejudice.

25. The people who come to Vermont in love with its “Vermont Life” magazine. rural beauty are pushing out locals who cannot afford the lifestyle, homes, etc. which are displacing them.
26. Religious / spiritual prejudices.
27. The attitude that VT is better than anywhere else.
28. Apathy towards injustice in the world.
29. Homophobia.
30. Lack of Christianity.
31. Prejudice.
32. Lack of respect.
33. General non-acceptance of teens.
34. Too liberal of a society.
35. Middle class being financially squeezed and nobody seems to care.
36. Just plain mean and disrespectful of others.
37. Homophobia.
38. Negativity towards a large number of people moving to Vermont, not so much refugees, people from other states.

TRANSPORTATION:

1. Lack of safety for pedestrians from cars and bikes.
2. We do not need the circ highway – instead we need to have better exit on I-89 and 2-A.
3. Lack of residential parking enforcement.
4. Burlington should be a car-free city.
5. More FREE or very low cost public transportation, emphasis on a walkable, bikeable, human scale environment.
6. Get rid of cars completely, create neighborhoods that are conducive to bike riding or walking to all daily needs.
7. Transportation will become more of an issue for those who can least afford it.
8. Lack of alternatives to circ highway.
9. Vehicles are too big – SUVs, etc.
10. Paying for parking at FAHC.
11. No comprehensive traffic planning. Winooski rotary is symptomatic of pet ideas taking priority over goals of a roadway system to efficiently move traffic.
12. Need different signals in locations.
13. Lack of good rail service.
14. Sprawl development leading to too many people having to drive too much for work, shopping, school, after-school, etc.
15. I want to double delays to circ.
16. Oil depletion is happening; plan now for car-sharing and added public transit.
17. Gas prices.
18. Deterioration of bridges.
19. Too many and poorly coordinated traffic lights.
20. Burlington seems like pothole central – very damaging to automobiles and safety for driving.
21. No public transportation in Colchester, where I live.
22. Affordable alternative.

23. Need Bolton exit.
24. Teenage driving habits are dangerous.
25. Please develop a safe county-wide bike route that gets bikes off of the main roads. I would bike to work if I didn't have to ride alongside cars and trucks.
26. No long term plan for well constructed roads.
27. Gas prices.
28. Poor condition of the sidewalks, making it dangerous for those on electronic scooters or wheelchairs.
29. We should have the availability of the train again, especially with the cost of gas.
30. More attention paid to pedestrian safety please.
31. Laws to ban cell phone use while driving.
32. Riverside Ave.
33. Cell phones, SUV's.
34. Driving while talking on cell phone.
35. Respect for red lights.
36. Gas prices.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION:

1. Limited recycling.
2. Light pollution.
3. SUV's/cars.
4. Encourage all landlords to pay for recycling services.
5. Acid rain.
6. Pollution problems much less than other places, but littering still exists.
7. Lack of organized recycling and education to reduce energy consumption.
8. Environmentally friendly energy sources.
9. Light pollution.
10. Global dimming.
11. Concern about international papers plan to burn tires.
12. Light pollution.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES:

1. Lack of education for general public to participate and effect change.
2. Lack of health care coverage for all.
3. Income and property taxes too high, should increase sin taxes including gas tax.
4. The rich get richer, while the poor get poorer... not helping with issues such as family dealing with Autism.
5. Difficulty/Inability to communicate governmental actions to population.
6. Two year terms.
7. Freedom and Privacy are being eroded rapidly.
8. Need city government to keep citizens better informed about what is happening especially in putting up new buildings.
9. Poor quality of political candidates/lack of expertise.
10. Polarization surrounding issues that paralyze government to do its most important work.
11. Burlington property taxes are OUT OF CONTROL!
12. Department of Education is ineffective.

13. Property taxes (though I am very much in support of education).
14. Lack of creative thinking in government.
15. Inaction on universal health care.
16. Lack of long-range vision.
17. Federal Administration and Congress.
18. Legislative sessions are too long and there are too many summer committees. We are losing our citizens legislature.
19. Act 60 – State has taken over property tax and will use it for more than education.
20. Low voter turn-out.
21. The War.
22. Lack of support for community-based service providers.
23. Need term limits.
24. Campaign financing.
25. Lack of progress on health insurance reform.
26. The Bush administration sucks.
27. Caliber of people drawn to office; holding office mostly about cutting budgets – who would want the job anyway?
28. Pass 654 Emergency preparedness bill; need more productive farmland in VT, more micro energy projects/group net metering for wind and solar; local food in schools.
29. High cost of living.
30. Lack of term limits.
31. Problems with the way our tax dollars are being spent.
32. How we fund public education.
33. Bloated state bureaucracy.
34. Budget deficits.
35. Absurdly high gas prices.
36. Make cigarettes \$10 a pack, tax alcohol too.
37. Problems with lobbyists overrunning government.
38. School tax / funding: rich towns and poor towns.
39. Pressures from big business like oil companies, etc.
40. Need to have low low income housing.
41. Lack of vision.
42. Reliance on taxes – tax tax tax.
43. VT is the highest taxed state in the union.
44. Equal access to health care / medication.
45. Support for the war.
46. Complicated property tax system.
47. Same issue tied up in voted for years.
48. State governments bias towards business and against people.
49. Red tape.
50. High housing tax.
51. Cost of gas at the pump.
52. Politicians have no backbone.
53. Too much partisanship, not doing the best for constituents.
54. Need to get more renewable energy / more use.
55. Health care issues not addressed.

56. Property taxes are too high.
57. Too liberal of a society.
58. Government abuse of power.
59. National party priorities over local needs.
60. Cuts in funding for disabilities.

SOCIO-CULTURAL ISSUES:

1. Child rights regarding discipline, basic needs and how to ask for help/parent training (the only job where no experience is required!).
2. Loss of sensitivity to violence.
3. Divisions between “native” Vermonters and “incomers.”
4. Bullying of special needs children.
5. Classism.
6. Substance abuse.
7. Lack of mentors and role models.
8. Intolerance for diverse family structures.
9. Lack of support for gifted children.
10. Breakdown of family in terms of expecting schools and community to pick up when parents are lazy in teaching responsibility – focus on 40 Developmental Assets.
11. Lack of inclusion for people with disabilities.
12. Decline in spirituality within community.
13. Lack of community involvement for some.
14. Lack of diversity.
15. Racism.
16. I would check the entitlement one 10,000 times!!!
17. Need to focus on Community self-reliance, rather than individual self-reliance or gov. reliance; also, focus on human place within ecology, not above all other flora and fauna.
18. Lack of respect and reflective voice for young people in our government and schools.
19. Lack of understanding regarding navigating special services.
20. Lack of support for at risk youth.
21. Taxing families out of living in the same home.
22. Lack of support for families beyond the traditional family type.
23. Negative and load influence of conservative Christians.
24. Some college student issues living in residential neighborhoods.
25. Welfare state, large number of people on disability.
26. Lack of livable wages.
27. Substance abuse.
28. Apathy.
29. Poor education and dislike of “outsiders.”
30. town vs. gown problems.
31. Teen pregnancy.
32. Lack of respect.
33. Rich getting richer while poor getting poorer.
34. Lowering of education expectations.
35. We’re losing Vermont’s “Vermontness”. Big chain stores are replacing locally owned businesses, downtown is ruled by UVM students who only care about partying.

36. Basic helping neighbor issues.
37. Issue with sense of entitlement. Those who want our borders to close are the same ones that feel that they are entitled to exorbitant amounts for little work.
38. Intolerance of other cultures.
39. Substance abuse.

OTHER COMMUNITY PROBLEMS:

1. Transportation to work/entertainment beyond what CCTA offers.
2. More financial assistance is needed in the Autism Community.
3. Respect is not being taught, "family values" are lost on the young.
4. Put art classes back into all schools.
5. Too many activities / not enough "hanging with the neighbors."
6. Church Street area is too geared toward tourism, with vanished access to real human needs. It feels like Disneyland instead of home.
7. Underclass entitlement.
8. Little emphasis toward living sustainable lifestyles.
9. Lack of universal health care.
10. People do not show each other common courtesy much anymore.
11. Lack of quality affordable child care.
12. Can't walk to services.
13. Opposition to good alternative energy sources for VT (e.g. wind power).
14. Ignorance.
15. It feels like we are living in a jail a lot of the times because the landlords keep coming up with different rules.
16. Tension between conservation and development issues.
17. Under staffed police department.
18. Town swimming pool.
19. People don't pay attention to our government's mistakes.
20. Too much focus on creating a new image, and not upholding important family values.
21. Loss of the middle class. We have middle class families deciding whether to heat or eat and going without prescription medication because of affordability. But, they are not qualified for assistance.
22. Decline in volunteerism.
23. Native Vermonter mentality = "us against them."
24. Failure of K-12 to prepare all students for lifelong learning, including higher ed.
25. Lack of affordable after-school programs/services.
26. Denial of problems.
27. Youth are often "lost" if they don't fit into a subgroup, as an athlete or scholar.
28. Teen driving is a major issue of concern.
29. The "it doesn't matter" attitude.
30. Newcomers not welcome in the community.
31. Illiteracy, poor health care maintenance, child neglect.
32. We seem to be funding a lot of foreign born people over our own.
33. Illiteracy.
34. College students mischief, crime, noise disturbance in neighborhoods.
35. People not supporting our troops overseas.

36. Need to help poor with cost pf pet care.
37. Respect for peers / property is lost, which ties into breakdown of family.
38. Influx of illegal immigration to area.
39. Lack of job opportunity for young adults in professional fields.