

## HOUSING COORDINATOR

Another banner year on the City's housing front. Residents can now see the program impact of \$5,000,000+ in grants the City received over the last few years. Neighborhoods have been rebuilt, abandoned, dilapidated and tax deeded houses have been removed from sight leaving the City a cleaner, more visually attractive and a better place to live. The programs involved to make this turn-around are:

**Neighborhood Stabilization Program.** For all intensive purposes, Neighborhood Stabilization Program 1 is now completed. The largest and most visual impact took place in the lower region of Champlain Street where 9 buildings were addressed within a short period of time. While 2 of the buildings were demolished to make room for parking and dedensify the area, 7 were completely renovated and made model examples of what new rehabilitation and insulating techniques can do for a building. Two other areas of the city were also visibly improved; School Street at the corner of Cambridge Street where there once were 2 buildings on a single lot, one was demolished and the other rehabilitated and on Mason Street where 95 Mason was transformed from an ugly abandoned building to a new and refreshing look and within easy walking distance to our downtown services.

Such dignitaries as Senator Jeanne Shaheen, Governor Lynch, State Representatives and the City Mayor and Council have viewed first hand the impact of what a well planned and executed program can do to a neighborhood. Not to be forgotten and probably the most important factor in this success was our public/private partnership with TKB

Properties LLC (owned by Kevin Lacasse and Tim Coulombe) who acquired these 14 properties in some of the most depressed areas in the city and rehabilitated them to such a high standard. The program generated a lot of work for our local craftsmen and introduced new methods of energy conservation and created good affordable housing in some of the most depressed areas of the city.



52 Cambridge Street (Before and after revitalization)

**Demolitions.** In the end, the Neighborhood Stabilization Program's demolition funds have demolished a total of 14 buildings to

date. These funds not only demolished buildings but tested for and abated some very serious hazardous materials such as those found in the Norge Village building (formerly the McCready Dairy location) and turned an old industrial site into a future pocket park to be finished in spring of 2012.



94-10 Granite Street converting use from a commercial building to a new pocket park to open in 2012

#### **Community Development Block Grant.**

While no activity took place in Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, the City will repeat its very successful Neighborhood Revitalization Program aimed at helping low income homeowners with maintenance and safety issues in FY 2012. The \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant will assist helping upgrade another projected 35 living units in FY2012.

**Environmental Issues.** In FY 2011 many of our citizens witnessed the impact of some of Berlin's environmental cleanup efforts. In addition to the old Norge Village site, the cleanup of the old Notre Dame High School site continued with the City competing for and being able to obtain an additional \$400,000 in funding through a NHDES/USEPA ARRA Grant that helped clean the inside of the school and remove lead and PCB contaminated paints making the school ready for development. This now paves the way and makes the building ready for redevelopment without having to be concerned about environmental issues.

The accomplishments achieved in Fiscal Year 2011 has had a major visual impact on the city's neighborhoods as well as a very needed fiscal impact on the local work force that carried out these renovations and demolitions making our neighborhoods cleaner, safer and a better place to live.

Respectfully,

*Andre Caron*

Housing Coordinator