

## The History of the Bell

Found in Louisiana near Shreveport in 1941 by a lifelong Burlington resident, the bell was cast in bronze in Cincinnati in 1885. Once used on a Louisiana rice and sugar cane plantation, the bell was sitting on the front porch of a sharecropper's cabin when Bob Merriman bought it for \$300 and shipped it home by railway freight. His father mounted it on the roof of their 1812 home at the top of Black Walnut Lane in Burlington. It has been with the Merriman family for 70 years. Now the bell will be gifted to the people of Burlington to stand on the Burlington Green as a symbol of community.



# The Burlington Bell Community Fund

**For more  
information contact:**

Bob Merriman  
Janet Schwartz  
Chuck Bird  
Sandy Mazeau  
Ann Mazeau  
Dyrinda Cole  
Allison Yudelson  
Norman St. Peter  
Paul Rochford  
Dwight Harris  
Mike Scheidel  
Ted Scheidel  
Pat Small  
Sanjay Barman  
Robert Caiaze  
Sia Bauer  
Anne Walluk

[burlingtonbell@gmail.com](mailto:burlingtonbell@gmail.com)

# The Burlington Bell Community Fund



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[www.burlingtonbell.com](http://www.burlingtonbell.com)

## ABOUT US

### What is the Burlington Bell Community Fund?

The Burlington Bell Community Fund is an endowed fund meant to provide a permanent source of funding for charitable projects and programs that will enhance the quality of life for Burlington residents. The bell, donated to the citizens of Burlington, stands as a symbol for this community fund.

### Who is the Community Fund?

A group of committed community leaders in Burlington working to create an endowment fund that will benefit all the residents of Burlington.

### Why was the Community Fund Founded?

The founding group believes that a fund such as this will make Burlington stronger, now and in the future.

### When will the Community Fund Start?

The group is starting the fundraising campaign in May 2011.

### How will the Community Fund Operate?

The Advisory Council will oversee general issues related to the growth of the fund. A distribution committee of Burlington residents will be appointed by the Advisory Council to consider distribution requests on an annual basis. Each organization seeking funding from Burlington must complete a grant application and have 501c(3) status or a charitable intent for the good of Burlington citizens. The Main Street Community Foundation will administer the fund.

### How can you HELP?

You can help by joining the founding group in building the endowment fund for the betterment of our community. Make a tax deductible donation in your own name or in honor or memory of a person who has made a difference in your life or in the life of a Burlington resident.

## I want to be a contributor to the Burlington Bell Community Fund!

\_\_\_Founding Member Pledge (minimum pledge \$5,000 over 3 years)

\_\_\_Bell Circle Pledge (minimum pledge \$1,000 over 3 years)

\_\_\_\$500      \_\_\_\$100      \_\_\_\$50

\_\_\_Other Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

For all gifts please complete the following:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

\_\_\_My gift is in honor/memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
If you would like this person to be notified of your gift, please give us their mailing address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

Please make your tax deductible donation check payable to:

**Main Street Community Foundation  
c/o Burlington Bell Community Fund  
200 Main Street  
Bristol, CT. 06010**