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Print Page

## Our View: Buddington's advocacy has made Norwich a better place

To truly understand the positive impact that Olive Buddington has made on the Norwich community, one only has to name a single organization that she has not volunteered with — yet.

We couldn't think of one either.

This evening, Buddington's contributions to Norwich and the surrounding area will be recognized with the United Community & Family Services 9th Annual Palmer Davies Leadership Award. It is a fitting honor in that Buddington's advocacy for quality and equitable human services, education and health care for all represents precisely what the Palmer Davies Award is about.

It is about leadership and community activism — two words that describe Buddington. For more than 30 years, she has donated countless hours volunteering for various organizations. But she doesn't just volunteer, she serves. She is a former board member of such organizations as TVCCA, Martin House and Thames River Family and the Rose City Senior Center — to name just a few.

A former member of the UCFS Board of Directors, Buddington's commitment and dedication to health care for the very young and seniors is unmatched. Her leadership during periods of tough economic times was instrumental in guiding many of those organizations through difficult fiscal challenges.

She is also civic-minded, understanding that a community needs strong leadership in shaping the priorities of government. She is a past member of the Norwich City Council, 1989–91, and current chairman of the Norwich Parking Commission. In fact, during her time on the council she was instrumental in securing the \$4 million state grant that enabled the city to build the senior center.

She has received numerous awards for her efforts, including being named the 1997 Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut Citizen of the Year.

Being recognized as this year's recipient of the Palmer Davies Award is well-deserved and an acknowledgement of how much this community appreciates all that she has done for it.

*That's our opinion. We'd like to hear yours. Email us your thoughts at [letters@norwichbulletin.com](mailto:letters@norwichbulletin.com).*



Olive Buddington

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