

TRIMMING UTILITIES' TREE TRIMMING PRACTICES

More care will be taken in deciding how much, and where, cutting needs to be done. The utilities will need to work more closely with town residents and tree wardens to make these decisions together. The burden will rest with utility companies to demonstrate the need to trim or remove trees they believe threaten the electricity supply.



Utilities will now be required to obtain written consent from property owners for the removal or cutting of trees on private property, and provide notice to property owners abutting public rights of way.

We also established a mediation process for property owners to challenge a proposed tree cutting and to request stump removal. Final local authority regarding a specific tree rests with the municipal tree warden, with an additional appeal going before the state Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA). PURA is also required to conduct a biennial review of a utility's tree trimming policy with input from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

STORM DAMAGE

This year we moved to further protect homeowners, especially those close to the shoreline, whose homes are impacted by significant weather events. Homeowner's insurance companies are now prohibited from refusing to issue or renew a policy solely because the property owner failed



to install storm shutters on their home or have storm shutters on the premises. Insurers also may not decline to issue or renew a policy solely because of losses incurred from a series of storms. In addition, the deadline to file a suit related to a claim under a standard fire insurance policy has been extended to 24 months after a loss.

CLEANING UP PROBLEM BARS

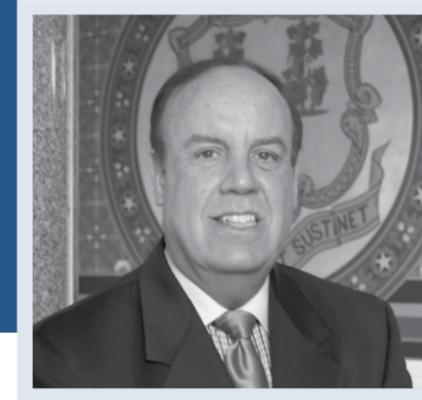
New Haven has developed a pilot program that allows police departments to be able to comment on liquor permit renewal applications before they are submitted to the Department of Consumer Protection. Due to the success that New Haven has experienced with this pilot program, we ensured that every municipality may now use this same program.

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARTFORD, CT
Permit No. 3937

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
STEVEN DARGAN
PROUDLY SERVING 115TH, WEST HAVEN



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
STEVE DARGAN
PROUDLY SERVING THE 115TH DISTRICT, WEST HAVEN



LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
CAPITOL: 1-800-842-8267
STEPHEN.DARGAN@CGA.CT.GOV

Dear Neighbor:

I am pleased to share with you this update on the recently concluded legislative session. Each year brings a new set of challenges, and the 2014 session was no different. The need to encourage economic growth, help working families, and make critical investments in the future of our children, as well as our state, was clear.

Meeting these priorities while also adopting a balanced budget with no new taxes took a lot of hard work, but I am happy to report to you that my colleagues and I were able to achieve our goals.

Working in a bipartisan manner, we were able to increase funding for education and enable more children to attend pre-school. We also made additional investments in job creation programs such as STEP-UP, which encourages employers to hire veterans and the unemployed, and will help our economy grow.

I hope you find the enclosed information helpful and will feel free to call or email me for any reason — legislative or otherwise. It is my pleasure and honor to serve as your state representative.

Thank you,

CAPITOL UPDATE 2014

MORE MONEY FOR WEST HAVEN

The state was able to make valuable investments and provide additional funding to our municipalities without raising taxes, while remaining under the spending cap. Cities and towns will see an additional \$80 million in funding for education costs, Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT), and other costs. By saving our municipalities money, we enable them to provide tax relief and make local capital investments.

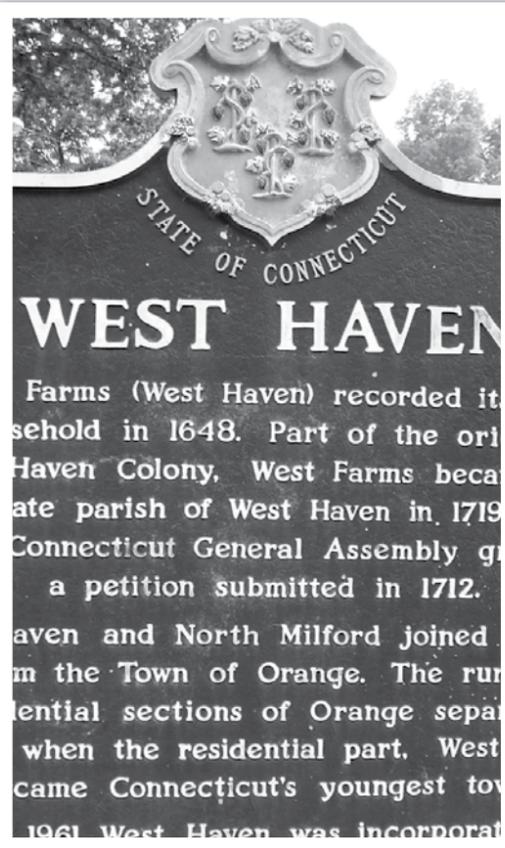


West Haven
Metro North station



ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

One critical way to improve the mental health system in this state is to increase access to mental health services. Individuals will now be able to receive mental health services in locations outside of licensed clinics. The more convenient we can make it for sufferers of mental illness to receive care, they more likely they are to get the help they need.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

STEVE DARGAN

PROUDLY SERVING THE 115TH DISTRICT, WEST HAVEN



PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

This year we authorized \$22 million for another round of school security grants. This program helped many schools around the state add additional security infrastructure last year, with more than \$21 million in grants distributed. The state's technical schools, charter schools, private, and endowed schools will be allowed to access the funds. \$2.2 million has been set aside for private schools that will be reimbursed at 50% of eligible costs.

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

Early childhood education is critical to a child's development, providing a solid foundation for future learning. This year, we formally established the Office of Early Childhood. It will administer programs and funding that affect our children from birth until elementary school. This coordinated system of care will better utilize, better educate, and better care for our most impressionable population in an efficient and holistic way.

HELPING SENIORS REMAIN IN THEIR HOMES

Most seniors would prefer to live in their own homes for as long as possible. We have taken steps to help make this happen. This year we created a \$6 million grant program for home modifications and other assistive technology that will allow people to remain in their homes longer. The program is open to seniors and individuals with disabilities who are at risk of being unable to live independently without the modifications.

MORE PROTECTIONS AGAINST IDENTITY THEFT

Data shows that more than 16 million people in the United States were victims of identity theft in 2012, with reported losses totaling more than \$24 billion. With 85% of identity theft occurring as a result of the misuse of existing account information, it is vital that those with access to this information are properly vetted.

This year we added enhanced protections against identity theft by requiring any mortgage broker, mortgage correspondent lender, or licensed mortgage lender to undergo a credit check as a term of employment.

HELPING OUR VETS FIND JOBS AND HOUSING



West Haven Veterans Memorial
at Bradley Point Park

The Veterans' Opportunity Pilot Program will utilize specialists in veterans' employment and homelessness to assist nonprofit agencies secure work and housing for our vets. The Department of Labor will manage a statewide network of employment services for veterans and utilize federal grants to lower the number of homeless veterans in CT. In addition, veterans can now apply their military training toward occupational licenses, including public safety positions and a variety of trades. College credits can be awarded for specialty training and apprenticeship credits applied to specific trades.

SUPPORT BUSINESSES TO GROW AND TRAIN WORKERS

Connecticut's three deep-water ports have long been neglected and underutilized. This year we established a Connecticut Port Authority to improve our ports - increasing trade throughout our state, growing our maritime economy with newly created jobs, and reducing the strain and congestion on our roads and bridges. The Port Authority will take advantage of Connecticut's unique geographic position to offer niche services for freight shipping across the eastern US, and serve as an alternative New York and Boston. This quasi-public agency will be fully operational in October 2015 and will promote commerce and thoughtful development along our major coastal cities.



Rep. Dargan discussing legislation

