



Capitol Briefs

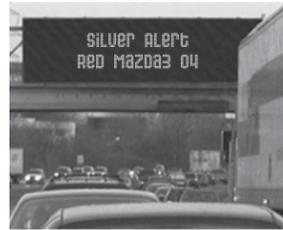
Senior Scene



ConnPACE Plus: Low income seniors and people with disabilities will be eligible to participate in the federal Medicare Savings Program as long as their income is up to the ConnPACE limits (\$25,100 for individuals and \$33,800 for married couples). If you participate in the MSP then Medicare Part A or Part B premiums, or both, will be paid for by the Department of Social Services. Participation also makes one eligible for other federal programs which pay part, if not all, of the Medicare Part D premium as well as any Part D “doughnut hole” charges. Finally – a real break!

Silver Alert: We are all familiar with the Amber Alert program which notifies travelers by huge electric signs on our highways that a child is missing.

The same clearing house for children will now send out information on missing seniors 65 or older. Additionally, it will supply information on young people 18 years or older who have mental disabilities. Truly in our world where disappearances seem to be very common, this is a step in the right direction to protect our frailest populations.



Working for you

Keep In Touch With Mary Fritz

At the Capitol:
1-800-842-1902
In the District:
(203) 269-1169

2009 Senior Laws
2009 Children Laws
2009 Major Public Acts
2009 Business Laws

State Representative
Mary G. Fritz



News for the 90th

Cheshire • Wallingford

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CLIP AND SAVE!

Important Telephone Numbers	
ConnPACE	1-800-423-5026
Medicare Hotline	1-800-633-4227
CT Partnership for Long-Term Care	1-800-547-3443
Commission on Aging	1-860-240-5200
Medicare Advocacy	1-800-262-4414
Connecticut Legal Assistance For Elders	1-203-946-4811
New Car “Lemons”	1-860-713-6120
Consumer Protection	1-800-842-2649
Tax Department	1-800-382-9463
Unclaimed Property Hotline	1-800-833-7318

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
MARY FRITZ
News for the 90th - 2009
CHESHIRE • WALLINGFORD



Dear Neighbor,



We all know that this has been a very difficult year economically for many of us and especially for the State of Connecticut. We looked to Washington with hopeful eyes – courting stimulus dollars as a way to recover. (I think they should have named the stimulus package “patience money” – have patience, it will come.)

Budgets failed! A budget passed! Language implementing the budget dollars was vetoed!

However, beyond the doom and gloom, we did do some great things – for you the people of the 90th District.

I’m sending my newsletter late because I want to wish all of you a very happy, holy and healthy holiday season and a great new year.

Remember – I am only a phone call away – 203-269-1169.

I am honored to serve you.

Heart Safe



As many of you know, Wallingford has been designated as a “Heart Safe Town” by the Connecticut Heart Association. This is because of the great work of the Papale family working to get automatic external defibrillators (A.E.D.’s) placed in all our schools.

This session I was the major sponsor of legislation, which is now law, which provided for “good samaritan” protection for a person using an “A.E.D.” In other words, a person could not be held liable if the “A.E.D.” did not work. Essentially, this removed a huge obstacle for towns wanting to place these devices in their buildings.

Additionally, I was a co-sponsor of another piece of legislation which allows schools to raise money to fund “A.E.D.’s” for their schools and recreational facilities. It recommends but does not mandate school boards to place devices in each building. The out is – “if funding is available.”

For these efforts, I am proud to have been named a 2009 American Heart Association “Legislator of the Year.” This truly is working to keep you “heart safe.”

AROUND AND ABOUT



Flags for Veterans: No towns or cemetery associations shall be able to



restrict the placement of U.S. flags on veterans' graves from the Saturday before Memorial Day until the Monday after July 4th.

Placing these flags is a great honor for our veterans and should be protected.

United States Senate

Vacancies: Finally, we passed legislation that would allow the people of Connecticut – all of them – to vote for a U.S. Senator if there is a vacancy. It would no longer be an appointment by the governor – it would be up to us!



Autism and Insurance:

Last year we passed a law which required insurance policies to cover services for autistic people that are covered for other conditions or diseases. This year we upped the ante! For a child under 14, behavioral therapy must be



covered, as well as certain prescription drugs, and psychiatric and psychological services. The money is spelled out and the amount is greater with the younger children. Remember – one out of 150 children – are diagnosed with autism. This help is long overdue!

Dairy Farmers: Truly a vanishing breed on our own agricultural landscape. Once the New England Compact fell apart, our dairy farmers were really going for broke producing milk. We



passed a law to help them. We temporarily raised, until July 1, 2011, the filing fees on documents in the town clerk's office from \$30 to \$40, with the proceeds going to the dairy farmers. Let's hope this works.

Primaries and 17-year-olds:

You voted last November to change Connecticut's Constitution to allow 17-year-olds to vote in primaries if they turned 18 on or before Election Day. We passed the law to make it so.



Brownfields and Business:

A law passed this year made changes to the regulatory framework for identifying, investigating, remediating and developing brownfields. We are a state of aging manufacturing properties. By giving direction and help to business, we can encourage Connecticut businesses to create new jobs. This could really be a boost for all of us.



MONEY COMING HOME



Cheshire

Grants 09-10	FY 09-10
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$2,110,640
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$153,750
Town Aid Roads	\$204,015
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$185,945
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$1,589,280
Adult Education	\$29,317
School Transportation	\$237,606
Educational Cost Sharing	\$9,298,837
Total State Aid	\$13,445,192

Wallingford

Grants 09-10	FY 09-10
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$51,412
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$375,438
Town Aid Roads	\$276,833
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$314,979
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$168,285
Adult Education	\$298,489
School Transportation	\$579,711
Educational Cost Sharing	\$21,440,233
Total State Aid	\$22,938,191

Invasive Plants

This has become a very popular topic in Connecticut. Several years ago an invasive plants council was established in our state. There is also an office at UConn regarding this topic. However, it took me three years to get a bill passed that identifies the plants, establishes the ground rules (no pun intended) and guarantees that the regulations are universal throughout the state – not a town-by-town determination. This was the year – finally – now people will know what to do and how to protect our flora from invasive plants.



Lyme Disease

In the early 90's I sent out a flyer on how to identify Lyme disease. This year, we had to pass a law which made sure doctors were not punished for the use of long-term doses of antibiotics for the treatment of this disease. It must be for therapeutic purposes that eliminate the infection and controls the patient's symptoms. We truly have come a long way!



Things That Went Awry

Increased Coverage for Ostomy Supplies: Several years ago I was successful in getting a law passed which mandated insurance coverage for ostomy supplies up to \$1,000. This was in response to one of my constituents being denied and told that these supplies were "cosmetic."

Ten years have passed and, as in all things, costs have gone up! So I put in a bill to raise the coverage for supplies to \$5,000! Passed the committee, passed the House, passed the Senate, vetoed by the governor! Reason? It had become the aircraft carrier for several other insurance mandates. Don't worry! I'm introducing it again next year!

Turbines at Prisons: This was one of the most popular bills of the session. It was, to my way of thinking, a way to look at energy outside the box. It would be put on the most suitable prison land. It would not cost taxpayers any money because it would come from the clean energy fund. Additionally, Connecticut received significant stimulus dollars for the clean energy fund.

It passed the House overwhelmingly but then got caught up in the partisan shenanigans of the Senate.



To me it was a wind-win situation, so I will try again.