

My Towns

DEFENSE PLANT ZONE

With the closing of the Pratt and Whitney plant in Cheshire, I filed a bill which would create an enterprise zone for Cheshire to replace the loss of taxes. The vote of the Commerce Committee was not to create another enterprise zone. Then the Department of Economic and Community Development came to the rescue! For Cheshire, we created a Defense Plant Zone which can only apply to Cheshire because of the 800 worker requirement. Stratford – with Sikorsky – has a similar zone! For Cheshire, this is a great fit! DECD is coming to meet with town officials later this month to work on the details! Be assured it means relief!

NORTH FARMS

VOLUNTEER FIRE STATION

At the request of Wallingford, a part of the land conveyance bill included a piece of land needed by the North Farms Volunteers to expand their station. I have been in charge of this bill for 15 years – so for Wallingford this was a slam dunk! The only cost is that of conveyance – about \$1000! Anything to help our volunteers.

PERJURY PROTECTION

The Innocence Project has brought to light a number of individuals wrongfully convicted by people who perjured themselves. The statute of limitations for perjury was 5 years. Working with the Chief State's Attorney's Office, I was successful in passing legislation which eliminated the statute of limitations. A most telling argument was – no statute of limitations for murder, then perjury should be treated the same. Reason? Most of those wrongfully incarcerated were convicted of murder by people who committed perjury!



Working for you

State Representative
Mary G. Fritz



News for the 90th

Cheshire • Wallingford

CLIP AND SAVE!

Important Telephone Numbers	
ConnPACE	1-800-423-5026
Medicare Hotline	1-800-633-4227 (1-800-MEDICARE)
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 G. FRITZ
News for the 90th - 2010
CHESHIRE • WALLINGFORD



Dear Neighbor,

Economically, this has been a very difficult year for all government: local, state and federal. My job representing YOU made me very conscious of the fact that we must not spend what we do not have. At home, when we're in debt we should not borrow and increase the debt to pay a bill. The Connecticut budget did that! I did not vote for the budget! I could not in good conscience increase our debt. Additionally, I did not vote for the energy bill because it put a surcharge on my Cheshire constituents in 2011 and on my Wallingford constituents in 2014. People should not be forced to spend more in these times for a necessity.



I also chose not to vote for "Race to the Top," the major education bill, because raising graduation requirements to 25 credits is not a creative idea to capture federal dollars. As the legislator who created graduation requirements in 1983 at 18, I believe at 25 credits we are not allowing students to experience all the aspects of education. In fact, I believe this requirement will stymie learning.

Reading the remainder of this newsletter, you will discover several good things happened for Cheshire and Wallingford, and for all of us.

I hope you have a wonderful summer. As always, it is a privilege and an honor to serve you.

Sincerely,
Mary G. Fritz

P.S. Remember, I am only a phone call away — (203) 269-1169

Domestic Violence



As we know, domestic violence has greatly increased over this past year! In September, I started doing research on protective orders and subsequent deaths. The Speaker later appointed me to his Task Force on Domestic Violence.

I brought to the table the research I had done and spoke out for and worked for a GPS system to be included in the bill. I looked at the success the GPS bracelets had in Massachusetts in domestic violence cases and I knew it was good for Connecticut. It was included in the final law but only as a pilot in three communities: Bridgeport, Hartford, and Killingly, because of money constraints.

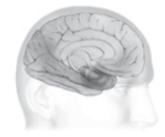
GPS bracelets are not used in all cases! They will be used in cases which are considered high risk after the perpetrator has been evaluated.

As in all laws, nothing is perfect but I truly believe these bracelets are a step in preventing unrestrained murder of domestic violence victims.

AROUND AND ABOUT



Alzheimer's Research and Money:



The Biomedical Research Trust Fund can now use funds for research into Alzheimer's and diabetes. This is a great use of the tobacco settlement fund.

Student Athletes and Head Injuries:

Coaches, although now trained in medical problems, will have additional training to recognize head injuries. This will give the coach the ability to do what is necessary to protect our students from head injuries. Without argument, safety must always be first!



Cancer Treatment:

Insurance policies must now cover orally administered anti-cancer medications the same as policies now cover intravenous drugs. Insurers may *not* reclassify drugs so as not to comply nor increase patients' expenses.



Vietnam Veterans Day:

March 30th annually will be proclaimed "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" to commemorate and honor our Vietnam veterans. About time!!!



Job Corps Created:

A task force has been created to see how the state may implement a program similar to the Works Progress Administration (WPA) of 1935. The purpose is to train unemployed workers to construct public work projects in our state. It worked before – it can work again.



Senior Center Privacy:

The name, address or phone number of any senior center member cannot be disclosed under the state's Freedom of Information Act. Privacy must be protected.



Sportsmen's Fees:

The DEP commissioner must give credit in 2011 for the increase in license fees between October 1, 2009 and April 14, 2010. So, sportsmen, your fees will be reduced accordingly! We did listen!!!



Bulk Purchasing of Drugs:

Non-state public employers will now have the option of buying drugs through the state's bulk purchasing authority. This could save our towns and cities much money!



MONEY COMING HOME



Cheshire

<i>Grants</i>	<i>FY 10-11</i>
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$2,389,138
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$158,061
Town Aid Roads	\$203,155
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$183,234
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$1,837,438
Adult Education	\$29,658
School Transportation	\$254,956
Educational Cost Sharing	\$9,298,837
Total State Aid	\$14,354,479

Wallingford

<i>Grants</i>	<i>FY 10-11</i>
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$48,225
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$403,999
Town Aid Roads	\$273,681
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$296,322
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$168,874
Adult Education	\$267,534
School Transportation	\$465,440
Educational Cost Sharing	\$21,440,233
Total State Aid	\$23,364,308

JOBS AND SMALL BUSINESS

As we all know, the economy is all about jobs. In a bill I co-sponsored, we tried to encourage job creation in Connecticut, especially for small businesses. There is money for small business loans and lines of credit, and for pre-seed financing and technical services for developing innovative concepts. Additionally, there are 25% percent income tax credits in angel investments for certain businesses. Tax credits and a cap on insurance premiums for small businesses that create new jobs are also part of this proposal.

I believe a very important part of this bill is forcing the Department of Economic and Community Development to help businesses with more technical assistance and helping companies that are in industry clusters.



I believe this is a step in the right direction because we are finally recognizing small businesses – the heart of Connecticut.

AGRICULTURE BOOST

In January, Director Magnarelli of the Agriculture Experiment Station asked for my help. Scientists had developed 2 cultures – strawberries and tobacco – which were disease resistant. The request was for the station to be able to get patents and licenses for all such inventions. UConn has a set-up for patents and licenses so we followed the language they used with the help of the Attorney General's Office. The Judiciary Committee, of which I am a member, passed it on consent as did the whole General Assembly. This helps agriculture and truly encourages future scientific experimentation.



(P.S. The station and the scientists can get money from these patents.)