

PROJECTS

Connecticut Food Bank

With help from Speaker Sharkey and the Governor, the Food Bank is building a huge facility on Research Parkway in Wallingford. Imagine the richest state in the country and we have 400 food pantries. Happy to help!

Channel 3 Kids Camp

This is for special needs children. They needed close to \$400,000 to serve more children. I worked again with Speaker Sharkey and the item passed on the Bond Commission agenda the first week in June. Standing up for those who can't is very gratifying!

Catherine Violet Hubbard Sanctuary

This little girl died in Sandy Hook. Her family put together a foundation for an animal sanctuary because of her great love of animals. I was chosen to bring the bill out which conveyed state land for this purpose. It passed overwhelmingly and the family's gratitude – calling me "her advocate" broke my heart for their loss.

Naming of Roads

Myron Verner – Rt. 10 at the bridge over 691 in Cheshire was named for him because of his great service as a police man to the town. In fact, he was one of the original officers on the force. This dedication was very special to everyone.

Christopher Columbus – John Marriott in Wallingford, a friend for many years, asked me to designate Rt. 68 from Rt. 5 to I-91 in honor of Christopher Columbus. This request came from the Knights of Columbus. The honor was mine to fill this request.

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

2014 Senior Laws
2014 Children Laws
2014 Business Laws
2014 Major Public Acts

**Keep In Touch
With
Mary Fritz**



State Representative



Mary G. Fritz

News for the 90th

Cheshire • Wallingford

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CLIP AND SAVE!

Important Telephone Numbers	
Medicare Hotline	1-800-633-4227
CT Partnership for Long-Term Care	(1-800-MEDICARE) 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	1-860-297-5962
Unclaimed Property Hotline	1-800-833-7318

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
MARY G. FRITZ
News for the 90th - 2014
CHESHIRE • WALLINGFORD



Dear Friends,

Another session has ended. This was the short session and was supposed to be limited to very few topics. Guess what? The topics grew and grew and grew. We addressed many things from sexual assault on college campuses, to unfulfilled oil contracts, from minimum wage to strengthening the do not call legislation.

As always, my primary concern was to address issues affecting you whether they be addressed on an individual basis or if the issue had to be addressed through legislation.

Remember – never hesitate to call me at home (203-269-1169) if you have a problem.

It is with great pleasure and pride that you have placed your confidence in me to serve you as your state representative. I believe together, we have done great things for Connecticut.

Many thanks for allowing me the honor of serving you.

Sincerely,

Mary G. Fritz
Assistant Deputy Speaker

Oil Contract Protection

I received many calls from my people regarding lost money when Ace Oil in Meriden went bankrupt. There was nothing of any value left in the company so there was no reason to sue. Yet people were out of a great deal of money. So, I decided to act. I wrote to the General Law Committee to ask them to do a bill which addressed the issue. The law which passed stopped the selling of oil contracts during the heating season (11/1 to 3/31). Dealers offering prepaid contracts have to disclose how contracts will be secured. Also, the Department of Revenue Services – the tax department, will notify Consumer Protection if an oil company has not paid its taxes. I thank all of you who called and I truly believe we are protecting people from this problem in the future.

Thank You

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for all your e-mails and notes on the banning of pesticides on high school playing fields. The outpouring from Wallingford was tremendous and my vote was yours! Unfortunately, this bill died in the Senate! Let's do it next year. (A special thanks to Todd Gully!)

AROUND AND ABOUT



“Do Not Call Registry” – Doesn’t seem to be working. Not for me, not for you! So this session we increased the penalty from \$11,000 to \$20,000. Let’s hope this increase will give us peace of mind – especially, at dinner time.

Robo Calls – Fine was increased from \$500 to \$1,000. Also, if the caller does not disconnect with you when you hang-up, complaints can be made to the Public Utilities Regulatory Agency at 1-800-382-4586.

Theft of Municipal Owned Metal – Scrap metal processors and junkyard owners are now prohibited from buying municipal scrap metal without written consent of the municipality. This would be metal such as man hole covers, sewer grates – all identified. It is believed that any of the purchasers who act illegally will be punished through the courts.

Protecting Domestic Violence Victims – Once a restraining order is granted, the offender normally cuts off all funds. Going forward, there will be financial orders as part of the civil restraining order. The penalty for violating any kind of protection order, including harassing and threatening was increased from a class D to a class C Felony. About time!

Leveling the Field for Occupational Therapists – Last year we passed a law which limited the co-pay for visits to a physical therapist and this session I made sure that the occupational therapists received the same treatment. In many cases, injured people require both therapies! This is one for the pocketbook!

“Lock Box for Medicine” – Department of Consumer Protection, the Pharmacists Associations, and

the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association will develop a program for citizens to get rid of unwanted medication in a lock box 24/7. The intention is to prevent drugs from getting in the wrong hands and from endangering our water supply.

Adoption Changes – Many e-mails, many calls on the adoption bill this session. I read, I listened. I voted for it! Reason: the bill clearly gave options. The trigger date is October 1, 1983. Those adopted individuals on or after this date can now obtain original birth certificates without a court order. The biological parents can complete a health history form which will be kept at the Department of Children and Families and also a form whether they want to be contacted or not. I truly believe the biological health issue tipped the scales for the law to pass.

E-Cigarettes – The newest gateway to smoking was also addressed this session! It is now illegal for any minor to buy or possess an e-cigarette. Additionally, no one may sell or buy e-cigarettes for a minor. Same penalties are in place as for regular cigarettes.

Sexual Assault on Campus – The bill which came from the Committee on Higher Education makes sure that our young women in Connecticut are not victimized twice; once by the perpetrator and then by the college she attends. Every incident will be reported and recorded. Also, campus resource teams will be developed to aid the victim through the process of getting help. Recognition that sexual assault is a crime must be upheld. Victims should not be forced into the shadows. The problem is not going to disappear but now at least the reality of the crime is again “out of the shadows.”



MONEY COMING HOME



Cheshire

Grants	FY 15
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$2,137,626
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$131,776
Town Aid Roads	\$404,050
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$184,416
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$2,156,592
Adult Education	\$28,092
School Transportation	\$201,060
Educational Cost Sharing	\$9,506,203
Municipal Revenue Sharing Account	\$692,865
One-Time MRSA Payment	\$68,029
Total State Aid	\$15,510,709

Wallingford

Grants	FY 15
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$55,689
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$360,041
Town Aid Roads	\$542,293
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$290,262
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$172,718
Adult Education	\$287,571
School Transportation	\$316,350
Educational Cost Sharing	\$21,769,831
Municipal Revenue Sharing Account	\$1,832,519
One-Time MRSA Payment	\$120,289
Total State Aid	\$25,747,563

FOR CHESHIRE

A bill I introduced giving Cheshire the Right to Sue the State for \$1.5 million for the effluence from the prison. This passed overwhelmingly in both chambers and was signed by the Governor on June 9th! Next year it will be back to the Judiciary Committee and by working hard we will take it all the way and make the money a reality!

Land for Cheshire’s Food Pantry which I introduced passed unanimously in both chambers. It will be 2 acres of prison land off Sandbank Road. Money for the pantry, \$465,000, passed the Bond Commission in February. Helping 300 Cheshire families is a great thing!



Water expenses were solved through meetings I held with DEEP, the Town Manager, Town Engineer and Cheshire’s water sewer representative. I solved the problem of having only 180 days to determine if new plans had to be in place for the plants. Instead, Cheshire will be grandfathered in and have the original 365 days. Talking and working together saves you the taxpayer money!

FOR WALLINGFORD

Center St. Cemetery – Speaker Sharkey has written a letter to get Wallingford’s cemetery on the Bond Commission agenda. With passage, there will be \$275,000 available for storage buildings! About time!

Enterprise Zone – The postal facility on Research Parkway will become an enterprise zone. Which means, whatever entity buys the property will be tax free for 5 years. After that, it goes on the tax rolls. Hard fight! But worth it!



Memorandum of Understanding – Worked with the Deputy Commissioner of DEEP and Mayor Dickinson to solve the problem of money for the closing of the dump! This means the people of Wallingford will not be paying for its closing! This memorandum guarantees this! Taxpayers protection!