



Ox Brook Flood Control Project

After many years of delay, the Ox Brook Flood Control Project is underway. With the support of the Bridgeport delegation, we succeeded in securing money for the first phase of the flood control project.

The Ox Brook is a tributary of the Rooster River that runs through the northern part of Bridgeport. It floods regularly after torrential downpours. Homeowners living in the 250 homes along Ox Brook have endured severe flooding from spring rains and severe storms for decades. This release of funds is the first step towards ending this expensive and destructive flooding.

Protecting Condominium Owners

For the past eight years I have worked hard to protect condo owners from abuse. This year, the General Assembly passed a law that:

- Requires association managers to be trained in current condominium laws.
- Promotes criminal background checks for those that wish to be association managers.
- Requires realtors to be knowledgeable about current condominium laws so that they may pass their knowledge on to prospective condo owners.
- Ensures that a condo owner may not be discriminated against for putting certain religious decorations on their doors or entryways.

Gas Tax Cap

The legislature acted in a bipartisan manner to cap the state petroleum gross receipts tax on motor fuels and enacted new price gouging laws to protect consumers from oil companies and gasoline dealers that try to exploit abnormal market conditions for profit.

To receive more information on any featured in this newsletter or to get additional information about the following reports, contact my office:

JACK HENNESSY
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 Jack.Hennessy@cga.ct.gov

- 2012 Major Public Acts
- Acts Affecting Business and Jobs
- Acts Affecting Crimes and Public Safety
- Acts Affecting Veterans and the Military
- Acts Affecting Environment
- Acts Affecting Energy and Utilities
- Acts Affecting Seniors
- Acts Affecting Children
- Acts Affecting Education

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State Representative | Assistant Majority Leader
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State Representative

JACK HENNESSY

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Dear Neighbor,

The 2012 session of the General Assembly was "a truly historic session," and brought important changes to laws impacting education, elections, and the storm response of utility companies.

In addition, one of the hallmarks of the 2012 session was the passage of a fiscal year 2013 budget adjustment bill that did not raise additional taxes.

A year ago, we dealt with a shortfall in excess of \$3 billion – 15 percent of our total budget. This year, the House of Representative passed a budget adjustment that keeps appropriations under the state's spending cap and continues our investments in education and job growth.

Historic changes were made to our educational system so our children can succeed. I am happy to report that Bridgeport will receive \$4,404,227 additional dollars in the Educational Cost Sharing Grant due to the new education law.

We made it easier for people to exercise voting rights, and demanded that utility companies respond better when storms and crises hit.

I hope this report is informative. I am happy to answer any questions about these issues or any others facing our state. Together we can create a better future for our families.

Best,

Jack
 Jack Hennessy
 State Representative

Bridgeport Fiscal Year 2012-13 State Aid

PILOT: State Owned Property	\$2,927,289
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$8,537,526
Town Aid Roads	\$665,404
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$2,215,017
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$6,237,305
Adult Education	\$1,416,785
School Transportation	\$1,623,838
Educational Grant Funding	\$168,599,571
Total State Funds to the 99th District	\$192,222,735

State Representative
JACK HENNESSY

Proudly Serving Bridgeport | 127th District

If you need additional assistance or have questions, please contact me:

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Representatives Hennessy & Noujaim discussing legislation.

Consumer News

- Residential heating oil and propane sales will now require a written contract if the fuel is the primary source of heat for residential heating or domestic hot water.
- Businesses will no longer be allowed to request or collect an individual's Social Security number. Financial institutions, health care providers, insurance background checks and credit agencies are exempt. Violators are subject to a fine of up to \$500 for a first offense and up to \$1,000 for each subsequent offense.
- The "One Free Item Retail Sales Law" will now include retail foods without bar codes, including ones that must be weighed at purchase. Current law allows consumers to receive an item for free, up to a \$20 value, if an electronic bar code scanner charges a price that is higher than the posted or advertised price. This law applies to stores with sale areas greater than 10,000 square feet.
- Package stores and grocery stores will be allowed to sell alcohol on Sundays from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. They will be able to sell alcohol on Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day as well.

Reducing Domestic Violence

We have made great progress in helping families affected by domestic violence in recent years, but the problem persists in our communities. This year we strengthened the state's laws to better protect victims, hold abusers accountable, and give new tools to law enforcement. The 2012 bill provides police officers the tools they need to better identify and respond to domestic violence; requires courts to share protective and restraining orders with schools that victims attend; and extends length of restraining orders from six months to one year.

News for Veterans

As chair of the Veterans Committee, I was proud to continue to champion legislation to help our veterans get the services and recognition they deserve. We are becoming more aware of the trauma to our service members while serving in a combat area, which is why it so important that the Veteran's Committee continue its work to fulfill its obligation to the brave men and women we put in harms way.

DIVERSIONARY PROGRAMS FOR VETS

We created legislation to give our returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan a second chance. Some returning veterans are getting into legal trouble as they try to integrate back into society due to issues related to their combat experience. This program will divert veterans into VA administered programs to get the help they need and avoid criminal proceedings.

DESECRATING VETERAN MEMORIALS

In response to increased criminal activity in thefts and desecration of veteran's memorials, we have created new criminal penalties to protect the memorials of our fallen heroes.

HIRING UNEMPLOYED VETS

The legislature established the Unemployed Armed Forces Member STEP-UP (Subsidized Training and Employment Program) with grants to subsidize a business's cost of hiring unemployed veterans during their first 180 days on the job.

CUSTODY ORDERS WHILE ON DEPLOYMENT

Responding to a constituent's call for assistance, we put together this legislation to protect deployed service members with permanent custody orders over their children. We provided an opportunity for the military parent to create temporary custody orders that remain in effect only as long as they are away on deployment.

CT VETERANS CHARITY NETWORK

Any person or organization misrepresenting themselves as a veteran's charity will now be facing stiffer criminal penalties due to this legislation. We helped protect consumers from these fraudulent groups by creating a legitimate charities list on the Department of Veteran's Affairs website.



Representative Hennessy sponsored "Help-A-Hero," a fund drive to benefit homeless veterans at the South Park Inn shelter.



Representative Hennessy joins friends from the Eisenhower Senior Center on their tour of the State Capitol.

Senior News

I am proud to support these and other initiatives for our seniors. After working throughout their lives and contributing to society, seniors deserve our respect and assistance to help them enjoy their later years.

PRESERVING MEDICARE ELIGIBILITY – This legislation ensured thousands of seniors and people with disabilities could continue to use the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) to help pay for their Medicare co-pays and deductibles by raising the income limit for MSP to accommodate a 3.6 percent Social Security cost of living increase (COLA) which took effect January 1.

HOSPICE CARE - This new law will permit hospices to follow federal standards, which allows smaller hospice facilities the opportunity to provide high quality services to patients and their family and friends.

GRANDPARENTS' RIGHTS - Grandparents can sometimes be separated from their grandchildren's lives, particularly when divorce or disagreements occur. This new law helps grandparents seeking visitation rights in court if they can show a parent-like relationship exists, and that a denial of visitation rights could cause harm to the child.

Education Reform

Our education initiative will provide new support to help turn around underperforming schools. The education reform package has long-term implications for our children and for the state's economic well-being. The better we prepare children for the 21st Century workforce, the stronger we'll make Connecticut's economy. The bill:

- Includes more funding for school-based health centers and family resource centers.
- Recognizes the critical importance of early childhood education by underwriting 1,000 school readiness slots for preschoolers and funding initiatives to improve early reading success.
- Creates the Commissioner's Network, to provide the intensive supports and interventions needed to turn around 25 of the most chronically low-performing schools.

