

A Message to My Constituents



Dear Neighbors,

The 2007 legislative session has been of particular benefit to our town, resulting in over \$1.5 million in additional aid to Vernon for education and property tax relief.

Dial-a-Ride Transportation services and the ConnPace prescription program have been protected and fully funded to enable our seniors and

disabled continued access to these needed services. The HUSKY Children's Insurance Program was also expanded to allow more access by those in need. Highlights of the session are included in this report for your information.

I am proud to represent our town and thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely,

Claire Janowski
State Representative, 56th District



Visit Rep. Janowski @...

www.cga.ct.gov/hdo/056

View "Rep. Janowski Informs"...

Every Wednesday @ 7:00 pm on cable channel 5 for a view of how State Government works.

TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE 2007 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARIES, fill out this form indicating your preference and mail the request to me, e-mail or call my office. My contact information is on the mailing address panel.

- 2007 Major Acts Laws Affecting Veterans and Armed Forces
 Senior Laws Education Laws Business Laws

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____



"I'm proud to represent the 56th House District of Rockville & Vernon."

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State Representative Claire Janowski

Chairman, Executive & Legislative
Nominations Committee

Over \$1.6 Million In State Aid to Vernon

Here's what Vernon will receive for 2007-2008:

• Education Cost Sharing	\$ 16,901,661
• Special Education	1,116,894
• Adult Education & School Transp.	527,264
• Town Aid Road	205,167
• Mashantucket Pequot/Mohegan Grants	366,900
• Local Capital Improvements (LoCIP)	222,105
• Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	932,918

Total Funding \$ 20,272,909

THIS FUNDING REFLECTS AN INCREASE OF \$1,632,730 OVER THE PRIOR YEAR. WITHOUT THIS STATE FUNDING, THE LOCAL MILL RATE WOULD BE OVER 46.18 !

Community News

New Fire Chief Takes The Helm



At a ceremony held July 1, Bill Call became Vernon's new Fire Chief. He had been Assistant Chief for 22 years. CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE! Pictured at the ceremony (left to right) are : Vernon Councilwoman Marie Herbst, former Fire Chief Bob Kelley, Rep. Janowski and Fire Chief Bill Call.

Police Change of Command

A ceremony was held January 5 to honor retiring Police Chief Rudolph Rossmly and new Police Chief James Kenny who took the oath of office as Vernon's new Chief of Police. MUCH CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH! Pictured at ceremony with Rep. Janowski are Chief Kenny (left) and James Thomas, Commissioner, State Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security.



2007 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



STATE REPRESENTATIVE CLAIRE JANOWSKI

The newly adopted state budget provides historic increases in local education aid and health care. Highlights are:

- \$237 million increase in Pre-K education through 12th grade
- \$78 million increase in Special Education
- \$336 million increase for HUSKY Insurance over the next two years
- Expansion of Autism Program
- \$10 million for public housing improvements
- Sales tax exemption for weatherization products
- Tax credits for rehabilitation of historic mixed-use structures
- \$2 billion in bonding to fund the Teachers Retirement Plan
- \$1 billion devoted to state debt, bonds, and rainy day reserve



Dial-a-Ride Transportation

Language passed last year to safeguard dial-a-ride transportation funding is working. As a result, state funding for Dial-A-Ride Transportation through Hockanum Valley Community Council has remained intact.

ConnPACE

The state prescription program for seniors and disabled remains intact. Co-pay remains @ \$16.25, yearly fee @ \$30.00 and there is no asset test. Remember, if you are under the ConnPACE program the state will also pick up your federal Medicare D premium.

Senior Tax Freeze Program

The state elderly tax freeze legislation I introduced was passed unanimously by the Committee on Aging. Unfortunately, the bill died in the Finance Committee. The bill would have increased the income limits used for eligibility, enabling more seniors to qualify, and would freeze the property tax at a rate determined on the year of eligibility. The bill also would have required state reimbursement to cities and towns for the loss in tax revenue. This program would have made a difference to many elderly on fixed incomes. I will re-introduce this bill in 2008.

Military Funerals

Legislation was passed to stop protestors from disrupting military funerals and allow burials to proceed with the respect and honor our fallen heroes deserve. Under this bill, a protest within 150 feet of a funeral will become a class A misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in prison, a fine up to \$2,000 or both.

Veteran's Healthcare Facility

The new veteran's healthcare facility in Rocky Hill is underway and progressing on schedule. The facility will have 125 beds for chronic care services. One third of the \$33.8 million for construction is state funded and two thirds is funded through a federal grant. I was very pleased to join the Veteran's Commissioner, Linda Schwartz, at the ground breaking ceremony last August. The new facility is scheduled to open in the spring of 2008.



Refund Of Prepaid Premiums

The bill I introduced to refund premiums paid in advance to health insurance providers for Medicare Supplement Policies successfully passed this session. The new law requires that those who pay premiums in advance receive a refund of their pre-paid unused amount should they cancel their policy or switch carriers.

Notice of Dormancy Fees

Banks and financial institutions have been allowed to impose fees on dormant deposit accounts without notifying the depositor. These are accounts that have had no activity for three or more years. I am pleased to have co-sponsored legislation which now requires that a notice be sent to the account holder 45 days in advance of classifying an account inactive. This will allow the consumer some protection against this federally allowed practice.

Firefighter Training

To help reduce costs for cities and towns, legislation was passed to reimburse municipalities and state agencies for one-half the cost of the Firefighter Certification I program. Volunteer personnel must be certified as Firefighter I prior to being able to enter a burning building. I am pleased to have supported this legislation to benefit our town.

Energy Safeguards

A series of changes to energy policy were passed to stabilize rising costs of energy, encourage efficiency and promote conservation. The legislation includes new energy efficiency measures, plans for new generation, incentives for renewable energy, more energy assistance measures and ways to make it easier for customers to choose competitive suppliers.

Preserving Our Farmland

A 12 member Farmland Preservation Advisory Board was approved to help the Agriculture Department with its purchase of development rights programs. Unallocated bond funds can now be used for pending land preservation transactions above \$5 million at the request of the Commissioner of Agriculture.



At Fishing Derby With Makenzie Manley & Her Dad



ECHN Receives \$423,000 Grant

Eastern Connecticut Health Network (ECHN) was awarded \$423,000 in state grant funding to enable the acquisition of equipment for the new Orthopedic Operating Room at Rockville General Hospital. I am pleased to have advocated for this essential funding.

Picture: Rep. Janowski at Orthopedic Services reopening with Rockville Bank CEO Bill McGurk (left) and ECHN Public Affairs V.P. Andrew Beck.