

# A Message From Representative Janowski



Dear Neighbor,

*This year was both challenging and exciting.*

*We made historic investments in our public schools, aid for higher education, health care and transportation. We also passed legislation to promote energy conservation and protect our environment. Session highlights*

*are included in this newsletter for your information.*

*Thank you for the opportunity to serve our district and have a safe, enjoyable Summer.*

*Sincerely,*

*Claire Janowski  
State Representative*

**MUSIC HALL OF FAME BILL PASSED** - The idea to create a State Music Hall of Fame is still alive due to the passage of a bill I introduced in support of locating the facility in Rockville. Cliff Edwards, president of the Gene Pitney Commemorative Committee, joined me in giving testimony on the merits of locating the Hall of Fame in Rockville during the public hearing. The bill ultimately won passage for use as a vehicle to extend the deadline until January, 2009 for the "Music Hall of Fame Committee" to do its work in selecting a potential site, providing Vernon and other interested towns greater opportunity to market their specific proposals. I am pleased in having taken the leadership role on the passage of this bill.

**MISSION OF MERCY FREE DENTAL CLINIC** - To help address the dire need for dental services, the Connecticut State Dental Association organized a free dental clinic at the old Tolland High School April 12th and 13th. The response from residents throughout the state was overwhelming as hundreds lined up before 5:00 am. By 7:00 am that number had reached the maximum capacity of 800 and many had to be turned away. While the free clinic certainly made a big difference to many who cannot access dental care, it also illustrates the need for greater access and affordability within the current health care system. (Pictured: Rep. Janowski at Mission of Mercy Free Clinic site, speaking with Dr. Michael Perl, a chief organizer of the free clinic).



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Proudly  
Representing  
The 56th  
House District  
Of Vernon And  
Rockville.



State Representative  
**Claire Janowski**

Chairwoman, Executive & Legislative Nominations Committee



## 2008 Local Funding

### Over \$680,000 More In Municipal Aid

2008 - 2009 Approved State Revenue For Vernon:

Education Cost Sharing	\$17,645,165
Special Education	1,087,180
Adult Education & School Transportation	576,732
Town Aid Road	205,586
Mashantucket Pequot/Mohegan Grants	344,236
Local Capital Improvements (LoCIP)	231,266
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	776,592

**TOTAL FUNDING \$20,866,757**

THIS FUNDING REFLECTS AN INCREASE OF OVER \$680,000 FROM THE PRIOR YEAR. VERNON IS ALSO EXPECTED TO RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL PROJECTED AMOUNT OF \$600,000 FROM THE REAL ESTATE CONVEYANCE TAX.

### State Dollars For Special Projects

**\$1.2 Million For Roosevelt Mill** - The Bonding Commission gave final disbursement approval in January for Vernon to receive the \$1.2 million previously approved by the General Assembly last November. I am pleased to have advocated for these dollars and look forward to the completion of the rehabilitated mill.

**\$283,000 For VHS Grange Building** - The Bonding Commission gave final disbursement approval in January for the Vernon Historical Society (VHS) to receive the \$283,000 for improvements to the Grange Building. I am pleased to have requested these dollars to be used for handicapped accessibility and other much needed improvements to this historic treasure.

**\$500,000 Reconstruction Grant** - This grant has been awarded to Vernon for road reconstruction projects for use in replacing sidewalks, paving streets and improving drainage. The grant was awarded through the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program and was approved by the State Bond Commission in February.

**\$450,000 Hospital Grant To RGH** - Eastern Connecticut Health Network (ECHN) was approved to receive a \$450,000 grant in January, to enable the replacement of boilers and other physical plant work at Rockville General Hospital. ECHN also received \$432,000 in 2007 for the Orthopedic Operating Room Equipment at Rockville General Hospital. I am pleased to have advocated for this essential funding to help our community.



HVCC Celebrity Luncheon



Central Park Dedication



Skinner Rd. School Book Character Day



Youth Services Day at the Capitol



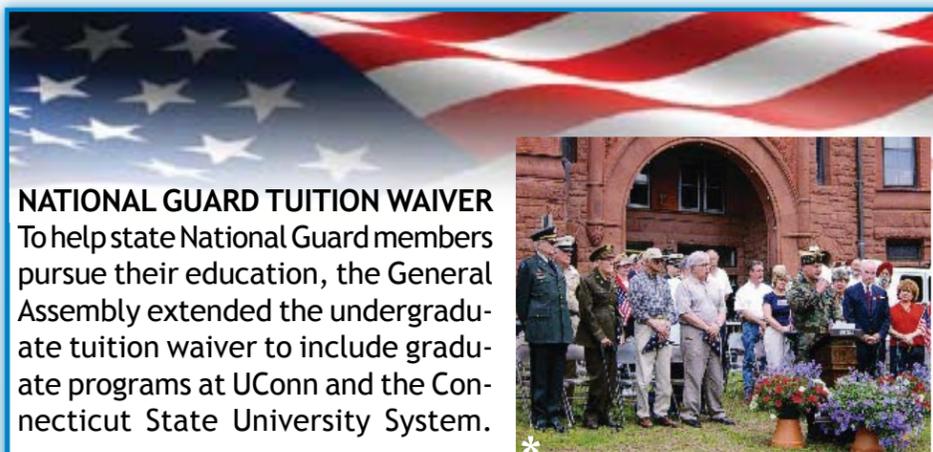
Gene Pitney Dedication \*



Dedication @ UConn



Bicentennial Kickoff \*



**NATIONAL GUARD TUITION WAIVER**

To help state National Guard members pursue their education, the General Assembly extended the undergraduate tuition waiver to include graduate programs at UConn and the Connecticut State University System.



**FAMILY DEPLOYMENT TRANSITION ASSISTANCE** - To ease transitions for military families experiencing deployment, legislation was passed that makes military spouses eligible for unemployment compensation when they leave their jobs to accompany a spouse relocated for active-duty service.

**REMINDER FOR RETIRED MILITARY VETERANS** - Beginning with the 2008 tax year, retired veterans can exempt 50% of their federally taxable retirement pay from the Connecticut State Income Tax. This benefit applies to members of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard as well as the Army and Air National Guard.

**HOMEMAKER COMPANION CERTIFICATION**

To provide seniors and their families with peace of mind when choosing homemaker companion services, new legislation requires that agencies and individuals providing these services obtain certificates of registration from the Department of Consumer Protection. Service providers must present this certificate upon request and include their registration numbers in their advertising.



**GLOBAL WARMING** - The General Assembly has enacted landmark global warming legislation. The legislation establishes mandatory greenhouse gas emission caps of 10% below 1990 levels which must be attained by 2020 and 80% below 2001 levels by 2050.

**HEALTH CARE POOLING VETOED**

Legislation allowing municipalities, small-businesses (including self-employed and home businesses) and non-profits access to the state Health Care Pool for their health coverage was approved by the Senate and House Chambers but ultimately vetoed by the Governor. This option could have netted considerable savings to municipalities in reduced health insurance premium costs. It also offered affordable access to small businesses and non-profits who currently cannot afford the cost of benefits for their employees, thus helping to reduce the number of uninsured in our state. This legislation would have been a great asset in helping our state tackle the huge problem of health insurance access and affordability.



**PRIMARY VOTING FOR 17-YEAR-OLDS**

The legislature passed a Joint Resolution to allow a ballot question in the November election that would give 17-year-olds the right to vote in primaries, provided they turn 18 by Election Day. This ballot question, if approved by the majority of voters in November, will encourage younger voters to become more involved in the electoral process. Students from the district contacted me personally on this issue and I'm pleased to have supported the resolution.

**VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER BILL PASSED** - Legislation was passed and signed into law that will continue to allow paid firefighters and emergency personnel to serve as active duty members of a volunteer fire department in the municipality where they live. This bill is of great benefit to the Town of Vernon, which depends on the expertise of volunteer firefighters and emergency personnel. The spirit of volunteerism is vital to the well being of all our citizens and I am pleased to have successfully advocated for passage of the bill. I also had the opportunity to participate in the Fire Ops 101 firefighter training on April 14th and gave me a greater appreciation of how all firefighters place their lives on the line every day. The hands-on experience of entering a burning building, extricating a victim from a vehicle and providing life saving medical help is an experience that I will always remember.

(Pictured: Representative Janowski being suited with breathing apparatus to enter burning building)



**CHILD PRODUCT SAFETY** - In 2007, the U.S. saw a dramatic increase in recalls of children's products due to the prevalence of lead. To address this serious risk to our children, the General Assembly passed legislation to regulate lead content in children's products.

**TO RECEIVE A COPY OF 2008 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARIES**  
 Fill out the form below indicating your preference and return to:  
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Business Laws     2008 Major Acts     Senior Laws  
 Laws Affecting Veterans & Armed Forces

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