



State Representative

CLAIRE JANOWSKI

ROOSEVELT MILLS GRANT UPDATE

As previously reported, the \$1 million approved by the General Assembly in November 2007 was given priority approval by the State Bonding Commission for disbursement to Vernon in January, 2008. The purpose of the funding is to facilitate the cleanup and small structure demolition necessary to ready the Roosevelt Mills site for development. The process for accessing the funding involves the return of a signed Assistance Agreement between the town of Vernon and the site developer. The State Department of Economic and Community Development informed me on August 15, 2009 that the dollars can be accessed as soon as the town returns the signed agreement to the State.

ELDERLY PROPERTY TAX FREEZE— HB 5045

I again introduced legislation to re-activate the state elderly property tax freeze program but it was not voted upon due to the budget crisis. The program would have benefitted many seniors on fixed income who cannot afford to keep up with yearly property tax increases and would have:

- » Required the state to reimburse municipalities for their loss in local tax revenue so that seniors would not be subject to property liens.
- » Allowed qualified seniors age seventy or older to freeze their property taxes at the rate in affect at the time of qualification.

The state does allow municipalities to adopt a local Tax Freeze Program based on local specifications that may include property liens. Call the Vernon Town Assessor at 870-3625 for information about Vernon's local program.

ROCKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY SUMMER READING

I was pleased to be the special guest reader as part of the Rockville Public Library Children's Summer Reading Program on August 4th. The



children were extremely inquisitive, involved and so interested that they requested that all (seven) of the books which I selected be read. This is a yearly commitment I enjoy immensely.



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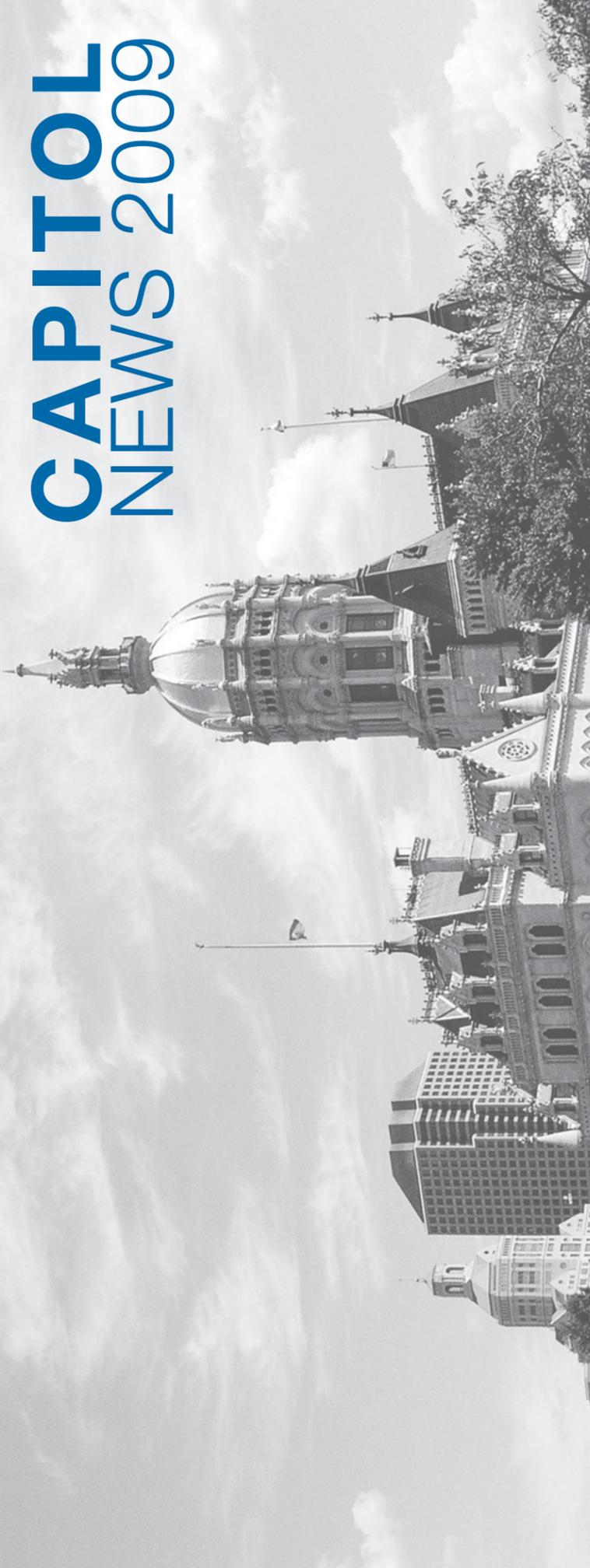
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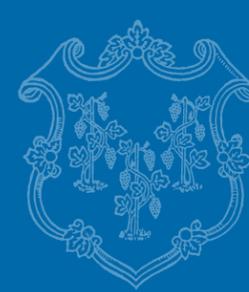
CAPITOL NEWS 2009



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Claire Janowski
Chair, Executive & Legislative Nominations Committee

TREATMENT OF ALLERGIES IN SCHOOLS

PA 09-155 | SB 755

- » Permits students with asthma or allergies to carry inhalers and epipens in school.
- » Allows students to self-administer with proper authorization.
- » Adds licensed athletic trainers to the list of school personnel permitted to administer medication.

GREEN CLEANING IN SCHOOLS

PA 09-81 | HB 6496

This bill requires schools to implement a green cleaning program using environmentally safe products that minimize potential harm on human health. Many schools are already "going green" with good results at minimal or no additional costs. I was very pleased to co-sponsor this bill and be part of the Governor's signing ceremony held July 11, 2009 at Vernon Center Middle School.

PROTECTING STUDENTS FROM CREDIT ABUSE

PA 09-167 | HB 6483

This bill requires the adoption of policies to regulate credit card marketing practices on public college campuses and protects students from being unfairly targeted by deceiving offers. As a member of the Higher Education committee, I made this a priority and introduced similar legislation in HB 5119 which was merged into the adopted bill.

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES OF WOUNDED SOLDIERS

PA 09-70 | SB 710

- » Expands the State Family and Medical Leave Act.
- » Permits employees to take up to 26 weeks of unpaid leave from work to care for injured family members who are military personnel.

DAIRY FARM ASSISTANCE

PA 09-229 | SB 891

- » Dedicates funds to assist and preserve Connecticut dairy farms.
- » Protects farms that have trouble meeting milk production costs.
- » Preserves the character of farmland in the state and allows Connecticut dairy farms to remain competitive.



Vernon Out To Lunch Bunch At The Capitol

LOCAL BRIDGE FUNDING - RIVER AND SPRING STREET PROJECTS

I am pleased to report that state local bridge dollars continue to be available for local bridge projects. A new funding source replaces dollars that had been proposed for cut in the Governor's budget mitigation plan based on misinformation received by the Governor's Policy Office. As a member of the Transportation Committee, I am pleased to have worked with the State Department of Transportation (DOT) to reinstate this funding and wish to thank DOT Commissioner, Joseph Marie, for keeping his commitment to fund all projects timely and on schedule. A formal letter of funding commitment was sent to each affected municipality by the Governor on March 6, 2009.

The funding is of particular benefit to Vernon for the re-construction of the \$2,311,435 River Street and \$2,320,000 Spring Street projects which are 100% FUNDED BY STATE AND FEDERAL DOLLARS.

FUNDING FOR PHOENIX ST. BRIDGE SAVES VERNON OVER \$622,000

To assure quick access of federal stimulus dollars, Speaker of the House Chris Donovan requested each legislator to submit to him a list of local "shovel ready" projects at the start of the session. I am pleased to report that the Phoenix Street Bridge Project, one of the two projects I submitted to the Speaker, was selected by the regional agency and has been approved for \$900,000 in federal Urban Surface Transportation (STP) funding. This \$1,125,000 project will now be 100% funded by state and federal dollars AT A SAVINGS TO VERNON OF OVER \$622,000 THAT THE TOWN HAD PREVIOUSLY ALLOCATED FOR THE PROJECT.

MAKING MEDICATIONS MORE ACCESSIBLE

PA 09-136 | HB 6540

Eye drops can be difficult to use and a thirty day supply can easily be depleted. This bill requires insurance companies to provide refills if prescription eye drops run out before the refill date.

SENIOR DISCOUNT PROGRAM

PA 09-53 | HB 5674

- » Provides seniors greater access to senior citizen discount programs.
- » Requires businesses to disclose details of programs and eligibility requirements.

DIAL-A-RIDE TRANSPORTATION

Democratic Leadership has informed me that Dial-a-Ride Transportation funding will be part of any negotiated budget the General Assembly will take up. This funding is vital for meeting the transportation needs of our seniors and disabled population. I am hopeful that the Governor will accept its inclusion in the budget.

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Although funding for Family Resource Centers and Early Childhood Education programs has been targeted for cuts in the Governor's budget proposals, I have a commitment from Democratic leadership that this valuable funding will be part of any budget approved by the legislature.



PRESENTATION TO ROCKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Representative Janowski, member of the Vernon bicentennial committee, presented a replica of the 1808 resolution establishing the town of Vernon and a 2009 State Register "Blue Book" to Rockville Public Library. Accepting the gifts are Donna Enman (left) and Denise Stankovics, co-directors of the library.

TO RECEIVE A COPY OF 2009 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARIES, FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW INDICATING YOUR PREFERENCE AND RETURN TO:

Rep. Claire Janowski,
Legislative Office Building, Room 1003
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

- 2009 Major Acts
- 2009 Programs For Seniors
- 2009 Laws Affecting Veterans

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