

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Northeast School Visit



Representative Janowski led a tour of the Capitol and Legislative Complex for 50 third graders, parents and teachers from Northeast School. The students learned about the history of the Capitol and also had the opportunity to meet the governor and lieutenant governor. Great inquisitive group of students!

## Award For Career Achievement



Representative Janowski presents a legislative citation to Shahla Zarinejad, Children's Librarian at Rockville Public Library in honor of receiving the 2011 Faith Hecktoen Award from the Connecticut Library Association. The annual award recognizes outstanding achievements of children's librarians throughout the state. Shahla is known for her storytelling and innovative children's library programs. CONGRATULATIONS on a job well done!

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

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

State Representative

# Claire Janowski

Proudly Serving Vernon and Rockville | 56<sup>th</sup> District

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2011 Senior Session

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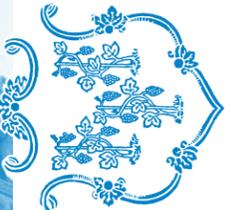
HOUSE DEMOCRATS of CONNECTICUT

# CAPITOL REPORT 2011

State Representative

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## ConnPACE/Medicare Savings Program



Medicare D Benchmark plan that meets your specific needs and qualifies as a Benchmark Plan, contact the Vernon Department of Social Services at 860-896-2375 or Connecticut's program for health insurance assistance, CHOICES at 1-800-994-2375.

ConnPACE has been replaced by the Medicare Savings Program. This means that everyone previously covered under the ConnPACE program will need to apply for the Medicare Savings Program. The Department of Social Services has informed all ConnPACE recipients by mail to apply or re-apply for the Medicare Savings Program to ensure their Medicare D premium is paid and enrollees can take advantage of the lower co-pays on drugs.

Premium payments under the Medicare Savings Program apply only to Medicare D Benchmark plans. To get appropriate assistance in selecting a

## Budget Bill "Sacrifice"

Since the economic downturn began, Connecticut has temporarily weathered the storm with the help of additional federal dollars. This funding is no longer available and although I voted NO on the 2011 budget bill, I understand the budget dilemma the governor inherited and the legislature is facing.

While the budget bill contained a number of positive elements such as reduced spending, consolidation savings and no borrowing to meet operating expenses, the changes in the income tax and the new hospital tax were particularly objectionable to me.

Despite my NO vote, I worked to advocate for budget improvements and restorations that were approved in the budget implementers including:

- » Money for regional Dial-a-Ride transportation.
- » Restoration of Individual Property Tax Credit to \$300 level.
- » A better Hospital tax formula to protect community hospitals.
- » No reductions in local education/municipal aid grants.

No doubt many difficult decisions will continue to face us.



2011 Vernon Garden Tour.

## Education/Municipal \$ Saved In June Emergency Bill

An emergency certified bill was passed in June to provide the governor leverage in renegotiating the failed \$1.6 billion in union concessions included in the May budget bill. The bill gives the governor increased temporary authority to make up to 10% cuts across the board until August 31, providing additional time to renegotiate the concessions.

At the legislature's insistence, the governor agreed to spare education/municipal aid from cuts. I am pleased to have taken an active role in safeguarding these dollars which amount to over \$19,000,000 to Vernon.

## Hospital Oversight Bill Passes

As promised, I introduced legislation to require that hospital service termination requests go through the Certificate of Need Process as was the case before the merger of the Office of Health Care Access (OHCA) with the Department of Public Health (DPH).

The bill gives OHCA discretion to hold a public hearing as part of their review process. It also requires OCHA to hold a public hearing if a written request is made by three or more people or a person representing any entity with five or more people. This provides greater transparency and protections for small community hospitals. The bill was signed into law by the Governor on 7/13.

## Dial-a-Ride Restored in Budget Implementer

Although \$586,361 in regional Dial-a-Ride funding was cut in the budget bill, I worked with leadership to restore the funding in the budget implementer. A portion of the regional dollars go directly to Hockanum Valley Community Council (HVCC) and other East of the river towns contracted with HVCC to provide local transportation. I am pleased to have advocated for this funding.

## CT Home Care Program

Working with my colleagues, we were able to reduce the 15% co-pay proposed in the governor's budget to 6%. This reflects a 1% increase over the 5% co-pay previously in affect and will continue to make it affordable for seniors to remain in their homes saving the state millions in premature nursing care costs.



## Union Street Repavement

The Union Street/Rt. 74 to Route 31 repaving is in process and is expected to be completed on schedule. Based on an on-site visit with the Department of Transportation foreman during the drainage covers work, the road milling will follow the completion of the drainage covers. A recent trip to the area shows that the milling has started and the repaving is expected to be completed in August.

# LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH



## Watch Videos Online

– Rep. Janowski on a new law regarding hospital services.

## Visit My Website

Find legislation I sponsored, photos, videos and more.

[www.housedems.ct.gov/Janowski](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Janowski)



## Return the card below for 2011 updates.

Please check the boxes below and indicate which important issues you would like more information about.

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2011 Major Acts           | <input type="checkbox"/> Firefighters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans and the Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors                   |                                       |

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