

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## RCA Organize Local Pageant



Rep. Janowski with members of the RCA, Miss Greater Rockville winners and Miss Connecticut pose on the red carpet – Photo by Steve Smith.

The Rockville Community Alliance (RCA) through the newly formed Miss Greater Rockville Scholarship Organization held the first Miss Greater Rockville Pageant, a local preliminary competition to Miss Connecticut.

The event took place at Rockville High School on March 17th where three winners were chosen. Katlyn Lewicke was crowned the first-ever Miss Greater Rockville and will be representing Greater Rockville at the state competition. Cassia Shoaf was crowned Miss Greater Rockville's Outstanding Teen and Kaitlyn Bouge was crowned the first ever Miss Tolland County. As one of the judges, it was an honor to be part of the event and see first-hand the intelligence, energy and talents of the young women competing for the titles.

The Rockville Community Alliance and all those involved did a great job for this first-time event...CONGRATULATIONS!

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Rep. Claire Janowski  
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State Representative

# Claire Janowski

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# CAPITOL REPORT 2012

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### \$1 MILLION FOR ROCKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

\$1 million in bonding for improvements to Rockville Public Library cleared the final hurdle and was formally approved by the Bond Commission on June 4th.

I wish to thank Governor Malloy, the Office of Policy & Management and the Speaker of the House for giving this shovel-ready ready, job creating project their utmost priority. It is a great plus for Vernon, the state and all the regions Rockville Library serves.

The funding will allow Rockville Public Library to undergo its first major renovation and expansion in 45 years with additional dollars being acquired through the Library's major Capital Campaign Fundraising. The project will bring the library into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and includes other major improvements. I commend the Library for their vision in pursuing the expansion and it's especially gratifying to see it all come together.

A \$250,000 grant I previously acquired for the library that won past approval by the Bond Commission is also slated for disbursement this year.



### EDUCATION \$ FOR VERNON

The legislature approved an additional increase in Education Cost Sharing (ECS) dollars to a number of municipalities that qualify for assistance under the category of "Conditional or Alliance Schools". Under the approved education reform package, Vernon's ECS funding will increase by an additional \$671,611 representing a 3.8 percent increase over the prior year. The additional funding is to be used for helping local schools bridge the student achievement gap. This will bring Vernon's total expected ECS funding for the new budget year to \$18,315,776.



Paola Severino, Italy's Minister of Justice; Teresa Younger, State Executive Director of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women; and Rep. Claire Janowski.

### JANOWSKI WELCOMES ITALY'S MINISTER OF JUSTICE

Rep. Claire Janowski had the opportunity to welcome Paola Severino, Italy's Minister of Justice at a recent women's luncheon held in honor of the Minister by the National Organization of Italian American (NOIAW) Women, CT Region. The Minister and her staff from the Italian Consulate were at the Capitol prior to the luncheon to discuss planned celebrations for fostering Italian culture and the arts in Connecticut.

### CAPITOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SAVED

I am pleased to report that funding for the Capitol Scholarship Program was restored in the 2013 Budget. As a member of the Higher Education Committee, I was pleased to advocate for this funding. Legislative changes were also made to eliminate the requirement that in order to apply for dollars this year, a student would have had to receive funding the prior year. This means that any student, who lost out in 2011 because of funding problems, can apply this year for the new funding that is included in the new budget.

### GASOLINE RELIEF INITIATIVE

I was pleased to be part of a bipartisan effort in April to help provide relief at the pumps and protect consumers from price-gouging.

The initiative includes caps on the gross receipts tax, declares any cap overcharges as a Connecticut Unfair Trade Practice violation subject to penalties and amends the "abnormal market disruption" statutes to include an automatic trigger based on extreme wholesale price increases for price gouging protections to go into affect. It includes home heating oil in the bill as home heating oil, which is based on diesel fuel has spiked during the winter, making it unaffordable as a source for heating homes. There is no sound reason as to why home heating oil should be priced higher than gasoline at the pumps given that it is not subject to either federal or state taxes. I believe this initiative will help stabilize pricing and provide some relief with the cost of fuel.

### DIAL-A-RIDE TRANSPORTATION

I am pleased to have advocated for the \$678,000 regional Dial-a-Ride funding which was included in the passage of the budget package. This is funding that goes directly to the Greater Hartford Transit District for East of the River Dial-a-Ride services including dollars for Hockanum Valley Community Council for services to Vernon and the surrounding towns.

### PRESCRIPTION DRUG RELIEF

In 2009, the coverage for the majority of ConnPACE recipients was converted to the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) to allow greater access to subsidies and lower co-pays for seniors and the disabled. To make sure that the program income qualification thresholds keep pace with increases in Social Security income, I am pleased to have supported a bill that automatically adjust the yearly thresholds. If this bill were not taken up, over 4,300 recipients would have lost coverage and I'm pleased to have advocated for this change.



Complete mail card below for 2012 updates.

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

- 2012 Major Acts
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