

Community News

Rockville Public Library Dedication



Representative Janowski introducing the Governor at Ceremony

A dedication ceremony was held on May 14th to celebrate the completion of the new addition to Rockville Public Library. I commend the library staff, the trustees and all those involved for doing a superb job. Every detail was considered in blending the existing structure with the new. The results are spectacular and it was a pleasure to present the library with a Legislative Citation for all the hard work. Governor Malloy attended the ceremony and promised to approve additional funding to help with cost overruns. I am honored to have advocated for this funding and it is rewarding to see the project come to fruition.

\$9.4 MILLION IN BONDING APPROVED FOR MILL REHABS

The state Bond Commission approved \$9.4 million for two Vernon redevelopment projects. The Talcott Brothers' Mill and Loom City Lofts (Roosevelt Mills) were approved to receive \$4.4 million and \$5 million respectively, as part of the CHAMP program administered by the state Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD).

Bond Commission approval is vital for accessing the dollars and facilitating the ongoing phases of development. I thank Governor Malloy and the Bond Commission for getting these local projects on the agenda. They will provide a great boost for increasing our local tax base.

VISIT REP. JANOWSKI AT
www.HouseDems.CT.gov/Janowski

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

CLAIRE JANOWSKI

PROUDLY SERVING VERNON AND ROCKVILLE | 56TH DISTRICT

Legislative Office Building
Room 1000
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Capitol: 860-240-0452
www.housedems.ct.gov/Janowski
Claire.Janowski@cga.ct.gov

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With Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman
at Vernon event



Reflection Pools at the 9/11 Memorial

CAPITOL REPORT 2014



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Claire Janowski

PROUDLY SERVING

VERNON AND ROCKVILLE | 56TH DISTRICT

STATE REPRESENTATIVE CLAIRE JANOWSKI

CHAIR OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE



SCHOOL FUNDING & MUNICIPAL AID

Under the recently approved budget, Vernon's Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funding will increase by an additional \$602,747 over the prior year. This brings the total ECS funding that Vernon can expect to receive for 2014-2015 to \$19,650,126.

Other municipal aid funding remained stable at \$1,912,269 bringing the total state formula municipal aid to Vernon at over \$21.5 million.

\$300,000 MORE FOR ROCKVILLE LIBRARY

The State Bonding Commission approved an additional \$300,000 for Rockville Public Library on May 30th to cover expenses associated with ADA-related compliance work. This amount is in addition to the \$1.25 million in state aid previously received to help cover the \$3.4 million renovation project. I am pleased to have advocated for this funding and thank House Speaker Brendan Sharkey and Governor Dannel Malloy for giving it priority approval.

RENTER'S REBATE PROGRAM SAVED

As promised, the Elderly and Disabled Rental Rebate Program has been restored and has been fully funded. The program is once again open to new qualified entrants and does not disqualify someone from future participation for failing to reapply the prior year. I am pleased to have successfully fought for the restoration.

The rental rebate assistance program is for low-income renters who are elderly or disabled and the rebate amount is based on a graduated income scale, the amount of rent, and qualified utility payments.

The application period began April 1st and runs through October 1st. I urge residents to apply as soon as possible at the Vernon Social Services Department located at the Vernon Town Hall. For further information, contact Vernon Social Services at (860) 870-3661.

BABY SCHOLARS PROGRAM (CHET)

To encourage early savings for a child's college education, the CHET Baby Scholars Program will provide a one-time incentive of \$100 for opening a CHET 529 savings account by a child's first birthday, or within the first year after adoption. Further, families that contribute \$150 in the first 4 years will receive a one-time match of \$150 from the state. Contributions are tax free up to \$5,000 per year.

HVCC AWARDED \$219,673 GRANT

Hockanum Valley Community Council (HVCC), was awarded a total of \$219,673 for several projects under the first round of the State Nonprofit Grants Program adopted by the legislature in 2013. The program was established to support and invest in community-based organizations that provide critical services to individuals and families in need. Glad to see Vernon's HVCC win the first round of awards.

AARP & CWA HONORS

Thank you to AARP for honoring me with the *AARP Legislative Achievement Award* in recognition of successfully fighting for consumers by advocating that the standard offer for electricity rates continue and customers not be auctioned into the unregulated market. Rate increases under the standard offer must be approved by the state, providing greater stability, less spiking and the potential for lower prices.



Thank you also to the Communication Workers of America (CWA), Local 1298 for honoring me with the "Patron of the People" award for advocating to ensure seniors and all consumers have access to affordable and reliable telephone service. Phone companies were pushing for legislation to stop land line services without regulatory approval. The change would have made it too easy to drop seniors who often can't afford expensive bundles.

DIAL-A-RIDE TRANSPORTATION INTACT

\$576,000 in regional non-ADA Dial-A-Ride funding was approved in the final budget. Part of this funding is for transportation services east of the river, including transportation provided by Hockanum Valley Community Council (HVCC). \$3 million was also included in the budget to fund the Municipal Matching Dial-a-Ride Grant. Vernon qualifies for a portion of this grant, which also goes to HVCC for expanded Dial-a-Ride services. I am pleased to have successfully advocated for this funding.

HOSPITAL CONVERSION BILL

I voted NO on a bill lobbied heavily by Texas-based Tenet Healthcare Corporation which allows for-profit hospitals to form medical foundations for the purpose of hiring their own doctors. The use of medical foundations to hire doctors was previously limited to non-profit hospitals in order to guard against the concern that for-profit hospitals may permit financial considerations to unduly impact medical care decisions. Although the bill gives more oversight to the Attorney General's office, it *does not* provide enough safeguards to protect small community hospitals from closure, creating the potential to limit health care access. The bill was also silent on job protections and there is a further concern that for-profits will result in increased costs to patients and consumers.

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