

## CAPITOL TOUR



The Vernon Regional Adult Based Education (VRABE) summer group of ESL students enjoyed a visit of the Capitol and the LOB in July. They asked great questions and also had the opportunity to visit the Governor's office.

## RETIREMENT CONGRATULATIONS

Thank you to Alan Slobodien for over 20 years of commitment and dedication to Vernon's youth and the surrounding community as Vernon's Youth Services Director. We all appreciate Alan's immense contributions and wish him the best!



## ROCKVILLE LIBRARY READING

I was pleased to be a guest reader at Rockville Public Library's summer reading program once again. The children were wonderful and played along with animal sounds and shared experiences about places they visited with their parents. This is a great children's program at our local library!



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Rep. Janowski welcomes 2015 American Idol winner Nick Fradiani at the Capitol.

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## CAPITOL UPDATE 2015



Legislative Office Building, Room 1003 | Hartford, CT 06106-1591  
Capitol: 860-240-0452 | [www.housedems.ct.gov/Janowski](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Janowski)

## 2015 ANNUAL SENIOR BRIEFING



The 15th annual legislative update on senior programs and issues was held at the Florence Mill Community Room on July 15th. More than 60 seniors attended the event as in the past when it was held at the Senior Center. Many thanks to Florence Mill for their hospitality and refreshments. Also, thanks to all those who attended including Vernon Councilman Mike Winkler for making it such a successful event! **If you were not able to attend and would like materials, contact my office.**

### RENTERS' REBATE APPLICATION REMINDER

Please note that the Elderly & Disabled Renters' Rebate Program was fully restored and is fully funded to include new qualified entrants. I urge anyone who has participated in the past and any new applicants who may qualify to file the current year's application as soon as possible. The application period began April 1st and runs through October 1st. **Contact the Vernon Department of Social Services at 860-870-3661 to apply.**

### MILITARY RETIREMENT INCOME

A new law fully exempts federally taxable military retirement pay from the state income tax. Prior to this change, retirement pay was exempt at just 50%. The exemption applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2015 and applies to federal retirement pay for retired members of the U. S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Army and Air National Guards.

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### \$2M MORE FOR VERNON MILLS CLEANUP

Vernon won another \$2 million state grant for the remediation and redevelopment of the Amerbelle and Daniels Mills. This brings the total amount of state funding Vernon was awarded for this project to \$4.5 million — a prior \$2 million grant was approved last September. The grant is the latest amount to aid in the revitalization of downtown Rockville. The town previously received a \$200,000 assessment grant and a \$300,000 planning grant to assist in the cleanup of abandoned sites.

### LOOM CITY LOFTS/ROOSEVELT MILL COMPLETION

I toured the Loom City Lofts project in July. The exterior is refinished and looking great with the new windows. Project Developer, Joe Vallone guided me through the site which included one of the apartments in progress.

**This is a huge improvement for Rockville and a huge plus for our town!**

I have been watchful of this project since acquiring the initial \$1.2 million. With the infusion of the additional \$5 million under the state CHAMP program and the state historic tax credits, the project is slated for completion later this year.



### EDUCATION FUNDING

For Fiscal Year (FY) 16, Vernon was kept whole on Education (ECS) Funding and is slated to receive \$19,650,126.

### MOTOR VEHICLE TAX CAP FOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

The budget caps each town's motor vehicle mill rate at 32 in FY 16, and 29.36 in FY 17 and reimburses municipalities for the revenue loss. Vernon's full reimbursement amount for 2017 is projected at \$663,053. The tax break will benefit individual car owners and a formula has been established to reimburse municipalities going forward.

### SALES TAX PAYMENT TO MUNICIPALITIES

In FY 17, Vernon is also slated to receive an additional \$922,743 to help offset local property taxes. The formula for distribution includes a provision that reduces municipal amounts in the event that municipal spending growth exceeds 2.5%, or inflation (whichever is greater) based on the two prior years.

### HOSPITAL TRANSPARENCY BILL

Public Act 15-146 (SB 811) won passage with support from both chambers to protect patients from excesses of health care pricing. The bill limits a hospital's ability to charge "facility fees" for routine office visits when a hospital takes over physician practices; requires that comparative hospital price and quality information be made easily accessible; protects patients from "surprise billing" such as high charges for out-of-network services delivered at network facilities; and enables patients to have their electronic medical records shared with any provider of their choice.

