

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Claire Janowski



**PITCHING IN FOR
HOMELESS VETERANS**

The annual State Capitol Secret Santa Collection for the state Veterans Home and Hospital was a success. The collection included clothes, personal items, small electronics, games and gift cards. The donations were delivered in time for the holidays.

I am pleased to have worked with Rep. Betty Boukus to organize the event once again and thank Zahner's Clothiers in Vernon who donated a large supply of American made shirts, socks and t-shirts manufactured by Rambler's Way Farm.

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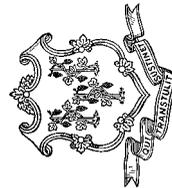
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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Chair, Executive & Legislative Nominations Committee



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Spring
Update



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ROCKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY RENOVATIONS

I had the opportunity to tour the ongoing renovations at Rockville Public Library in January and was impressed by the wonderful planning that has gone into every detail of the interior and exterior work to ensure the addition enhances the historic elements of the existing building.

I am particularly impressed with all the work that went into preserving the exterior white brick back wall and oversized windows by incorporating both in the design plans, making the brick and windows part of the interior walls of the new addition.

The spacious new public space and second floor mezzanine is a splendid merging of the historic and new. It will surely provide a visual delight to all library patrons and visitors alike. Full completion is expected in the spring.

PROPERTY TAX CREDIT BILL

To help reduce the property tax burden on local taxpayers, I have introduced **HB 5016**. The bill increases the individual property tax credit from \$300 to \$500.

ELDERLY & DISABLED RENTER'S REBATE

As promised, I have introduced legislation to counter efforts by the Office of Policy & Management to curtail the Rental Rebate Program.

The bill, **HB 5001** would allow new qualified entrants to enter the program, end the permanent disqualification of qualified recipients who failed to reapply and include the appropriate funding in the upcoming budget.

I am working with legislative leadership, and have gained the support of the Committee on Aging who held a public hearing on the bill.

ADDITIONAL \$35,680 TO VERNON FOR SCHOOL SECURITY

Vernon will receive \$35,680 to supplement the \$350,714 the school system received in the first round of School Security Grant announcements last September.

75 school districts, covering 435 schools, will receive funds as part of the second round of the School Security Grant Program, part of the Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety Act. A total of \$21 million has now been devoted to school security measures to reimburse municipalities for a portion of the costs associated with security infrastructure improvements made in the wake of the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown.

FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Although I worked to successfully provide additional funding to Community Hospitals during the last session, I have introduced **HB 5026** to safeguard the funding in the upcoming budget.

The purpose is to make sure local community hospitals do not end up with shortfalls from uncompensated care costs during the transition to the Affordable Health Care Act.

I believe that those who either have not applied for the federal program or may not qualify will continue to use emergency hospital rooms for their basic health care needs creating shortfalls and deficits for hospitals who are already struggling.

OTHER BILLS INTRODUCED BY REP. JANOWSKI

HB 5005 - Requires full state reimbursement to cities and towns for special education costs

HB 5006 - Increases education aid to towns to compensate municipalities for the magnet school tuition requirement

HB 5179 - Allows more retirees to qualify for social security credit on the state income tax