

State Music Hall of Fame

On July 30, 2007 the Gene Pitney Commemorative Committee (GPCC) met with me, Speaker of the House James Amann and House Majority Leader Chris Donovan about the potential for locating a State Music Hall of Fame in Rockville. Speaker Amann and Majority Leader Donovan were open to the idea and came to Rockville for a site tour in September. During the tour, they were particularly impressed with the architecture, the scenic view of the downtown area, the Memorial Building and the Civil War Museum.

Speaker Amann also honored my request to appoint Disc Jockey Wild Wayne Jones, a member of the GPCC, to a committee established by the General Assembly to develop a plan for the location of a State Music Hall of Fame.

The Gene Pitney Commemorative Committee has been advocating for a Gene Pitney Museum in Rockville for some time. Their idea about the potential to combine the museum with a State Hall of Fame has great merit for attracting tourism to the area and will help make our town a destination. I commend their hard work and ongoing commitment.



Rep. Janowski (center) with L-R: Speaker of the House James Amann, GPCC Directors Stu Edwards, Wild Wayne Jones, GPCC President Cliff Edwards, GPCC Student Advisor Corrine LaChapelle, House Majority Leader Chris Donovan, GPCC Directors Sandi LaChapelle and Russ Johndrow.

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
CLAIRE JANOWSKI

56th District- Rockville & Vernon



Rep. Janowski (center) at the grand opening of a new boutique, Reign & Royalty, in downtown Rockville. L-R: Gene Skladnowski, Rockville Bank; Proprietor; Petulia Blake; Town Administrator; Chris Clark; Diane & Dan Waskiewicz; Crystal Blue Print & Stationary.

December 2007

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CLAIRE JANOWSKI



*Advocating For Our Town...
Our State*



Special Session Update

News You Can Use

Students Honor Veterans

I am heartened by the wonderful involvement of students who increasingly participate in recognizing our soldiers and veterans who sacrificed so much for our country. That increased awareness is exemplified



by the Rockville High School Marching Band who honored our veterans by marching in the Veterans Day Parade. I am also proud to report that Vernon Center Middle School student Michael Adam Lee was one of three statewide students recognized at a special ceremony for his essay "Why We Should Honor Veterans."



Statewide, I was very proud to meet students from Cheshire who completed a poster project honoring the 612 Connecticut Veterans who lost their lives in the Vietnam conflict. This 1½ year project required a great deal of time and research. The posters were all captured in a bound book donated for display at the State Capitol. The Cheshire High School class was recognized with Legislative Citations for this wonderful project.



Rep. Claire Janowski with Cheshire High School students and Democratic Leadership.

Bonding Agreement Passed (Includes Millions for Vernon)

Following the Governor's veto of the bond package passed in August, a new bonding bill was negotiated and signed into law on November 2, 2007. This package is extremely important to Vernon as it facilitates the disbursement of over \$49 million in state funding for School Construction Projects throughout town. The bill also includes over \$2.3 million for three Vernon projects. Two projects are earmarked requests I made to improve handicapped accessibility to historic buildings and the other request is for the development of the abandoned Roosevelt Mills.

I am pleased to have successfully advocated for inclusion of these projects in the bond package. The final step is to get them on the Governor's Bond Commission agenda for disbursement approval. I will continue my advocacy in working towards that goal.

The approved bonding package also included funding for major transportation initiatives, major capital improvement projects for our State Colleges and Universities, increases for Open Space Grants and the Clean Water Fund.

\$1.5 Million for Roosevelt Mills Project

The \$1.5 million in Urban Act funding (\$1 million in FY 08 and \$500,000 in FY 09) is for the revitalization of Roosevelt Mills. The grant will facilitate the demolition work necessary to ready the site for planned development. This request was made on behalf of the town in 2006 to the Governor's Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). I have been advocating to get this placed on the Governor's Bond Commission agenda for disbursement approval in December 2007 or January 2008. I have also made formal written requests to the Governor, the Secretary of OPM and the Commissioner of DECD.

\$283,000 for VHS Grange Building



The bond package included \$283,000 earmarked for Americans with Disabilities Act improvements to the Vernon Historical Society Grange Building. This will include an elevator,

restoration of windows, restrooms and exterior siding. I am advocating to get this on the Bond Commission agenda for disbursement approval early in the 2008 session.

\$550,000 for George Maxwell Memorial Library

The \$550,000 in bonding is for Americans with Disabilities Act compliance improvements to the Rockville Public Library to include exterior ramps, restrooms and an elevator. It is my expectation that this request will get on the Bonding Commission agenda for disbursement approval before the end of the 2008 session.



Questions? Concerns?

Contact

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www.housedems.ct.gov/Janowski