

SPRING 2014 NEWSLETTER

Dear Neighbor,

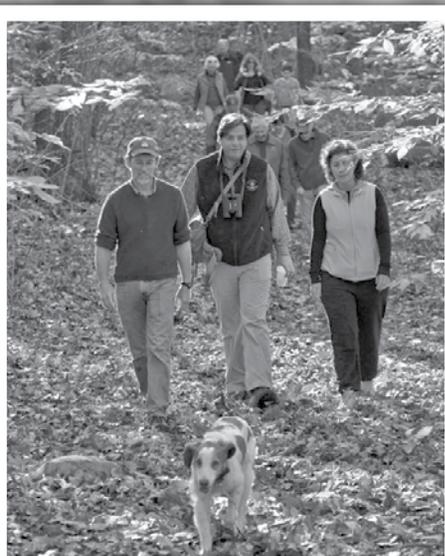
The two year budget was passed last year, and this session will feature small adjustments, as we aim to have all services and efforts funded and operational.

There are 151 members of the House of Representatives, and each of the Representatives brings a unique perspective. The 36th district includes Haddam, Chester, Deep River and Essex, all lower Connecticut River towns.

I continue to advocate for change and improvement in aspects of our natural world, public health, and our economy.



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Philip Miller

36TH HOUSE DISTRICT

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Rep. Miller speaking at a GMO press conference (left) and guiding residents through the Preserve (right).

STATE REPRESENTATIVE Phil Miller

36TH DISTRICT

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EDUCATION REFORMS

Our district features two well regarded public school systems, Region 17, which Haddam shares with Killingworth, and Region 4, which consists of Chester, Deep River, and Essex. Our educators are constantly evolving to improve teaching and learning.

A number of reforms have been instituted over the past few years to develop the common core subject matter throughout the state, and implement the evaluation and development of our teachers.

THE COMMISSION ON CONNECTICUT'S FUTURE

Our nation's military spending is greater than that of the next fifteen nations combined. Economists are concerned that we cannot continue to support this spending as foreign wars are winding down. Since greater than six percent of the state's workforce is employed in the aerospace and defense sector, we have restored the former Commission on Business, and it is called the Commission on Connecticut's future. The mission is to devise strategies to help convert businesses to non-defense products manufacturing, with a focus on environmentally sustainable production techniques.

WATER RESOURCES

Many states have long recognized the importance of water resources. The state has continued to develop a comprehensive approach to evaluating and managing water uses. I am helping create a new plan as part of the Water Summit Working Group, and we are finishing our initial work.

PESTICIDES AND HEALTH

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Public Health Association, among others, have recognized that pesticides pose a disproportionate threat to small children. This is why Connecticut has required preschools, elementary schools, and middle schools to maintain fields without chemicals. Despite the fact that many towns have successfully adopted chemical free and cost effective treatment, there are efforts to weaken this law. The chemical industry and the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities are behind these efforts, and I will continue to stand against them.

HUNGER

Most Connecticut residents have consistent, dependable access to food for active, healthy living. Despite this, each year, there are more households that experience limited access due to lack of money or other resources.

In our region, the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Community Hearth pantry have helped us with this, and hundreds of our citizens are among the volunteers who help these efforts. We are working with policy makers, anti-hunger advocates, and community groups to enhance food security, and support local food and agriculture.

Fortunately, we are anticipating a bountiful Connecticut growing season, which will be well timed, since the unprecedented Central Valley drought in California will mean less produce from there coming east.