

# EVENTS CALENDAR

## May - October

### MYSTIC FARMERS MARKET 2014:

Tuesdays, 2 pm - 6 pm

Quambaug Fire House, 50 Old Stonington Road

## June - October

### DENISON FARMERS MARKET 2014:

Sundays, 12 Noon - 3 pm

120 Pequotsepus Road

Across from the Denison/Pequotsepus Nature Center

[denisonhomestead.org/farm-market](http://denisonhomestead.org/farm-market)

### SUMMER SOUNDS AT MYSTIC RIVER PARK 2014:

Saturdays at the park "local bands"

Cottrell Street, Stonington

## July 11-13

SAILFEST

## August 9 -10

MYSTIC ART FESTIVAL

## June 17-August 15

### MORNING PLAYGROUND PROGRAM

8:00 AM-12:00 PM

At Spellman Park & Recreation Complex

## June 17-August 15

### FREE SUMMER BREAKFAST & LUNCH

Breakfast 8:00 AM- 9:00 AM

At Spellman Park & Recreation Complex

Lunch 11:30-Noon

At Stonington High School Cafeteria

## August 14-16

### 2ND ANNUAL WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL 2014

HOSTED BY MYSTIC SEAPORT

From Noon - 5:00 PM

## September 5-7

MYSTIC EATS – A RIVERSIDE FOOD FESTIVAL

## September 10-14

SCHOONER FESTIVAL

INCLUDING THE CHARLES W. MORGAN AND THE AMISTAD



## STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# DIANA URBAN

PROUDLY SERVING THE 43RD DISTRICT, STONINGTON & NORTH STONINGTON

# CAPITOL UPDATE 2014

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## STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# DIANA URBAN

PROUDLY SERVING THE 43RD DISTRICT  
STONINGTON & NORTH STONINGTON



Dear Neighbor

I am happy to report that the Children's Committee got some very important bills done this year. They include banning the sale of e-cigarettes to minors, protecting our kids from concussions, expanding cross reporting of child abuse and animal cruelty, and continuing to work with the Department of Children and Families on placing children with kin rather than institutions.

Along those same lines, Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman is serving as the Co-Chair of the leadership committee for the Children's Report Card and is helping us get accurate and timely data from our agencies. Please visit our webpage at [www.Ctkidsreportcard.org](http://www.Ctkidsreportcard.org).

The Task Force on Childhood Obesity and the Children's Mental Health Task Force are meeting regularly and we will have legislation up for discussion in the next session. You can follow our meetings on CT-N. We love questions or comments from constituents!

I will also continue to pursue payment owed to our small businesses by Amistad America.

Please contact me with any questions on the budget or to help you with any issue.

Sincerely,

Diana

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# DIANA URBAN

PROUDLY SERVING THE 43RD DISTRICT, STONINGTON AND NORTH STONINGTON



## CAPITOL UPDATE 2014

### E-CIGARETTES

My Co-Chair Senator Dante Bartolomeo and I were pretty surprised to learn that any kid could walk into a store and buy e-cigarettes (e-cigs). Data shows that kids that try e-cigs are more likely to try real tobacco and with flavors like bubble gum and gummy bear it seemed as if the industry was targeting kids!

When the Governor's office asked us to join with him on a bill to ban the

sale of e-cigs to kids, we jumped at the chance. I am pleased to report that the bill passed both houses unanimously.

The federal government is also looking at this issue and if they don't move to limit the advertising directed at kids our committee will be taking that up next session.



*Rep. Urban discusses the concussion legislation with Majority Leader Joe Aresimowicz who also coaches football in Berlin.*

### CONCUSSIONS & YOUTH ATHLETICS

Some very committed moms formed the Parents Concussion Coalition after their sons all suffered life-changing concussions playing contact sports and they wanted to update our concussion law. Through their advocacy we were able to add parent and athlete concussion education, delineate rules for returning to play, and require that parents sign an informed consent form. And we established a Task Force on youth sports to determine the best way to educate and protect our youngest athletes. Next year we plan on tackling how to determine when a child who has suffered a concussion is ready to return to the classroom.

### CHILDREN'S REPORT CARD

People always argue about whether big government is good or small government is good. I say that is the wrong argument. We should focus on finding programs that work and spend our tax dollars there. Programs that don't work should be retired.

We spend over \$5.8 billion on children and families in Connecticut. We are the only state in the nation to have a Children's Report Card to find the programs that are working and those that are not, by asking three simple questions, which must be supported by data: How much did you do? How well did you do it? Is anyone better off?

Presently we are working on programs to address chronic absenteeism because in a state with the highest achievement gap in the nation, it is logical that if a child is not attending school they can't possibly be learning. Visit us at [www.ctkidsreportcard.org](http://www.ctkidsreportcard.org)



*Rep. Urban discusses the achievement gap and chronic absenteeism with Rep. Cook.*



*Rep. Urban continually pursues legislation to protect our kids from toxic chemicals. She is pictured at a rally where many kids and their parents showed up. Here she is negotiating ownership of a rubber ducky. Guess who ended up with it??!!*

### CROSS REPORTING ANIMAL CRUELTY AND CHILD ABUSE

Many of you know how seriously I take this issue. The fact that over 80% of school shooters started by maiming or torturing animals is enough for me to be tenacious in expanding our ability to interrupt this cycle of violence

If we truly considered animal cruelty to be a red flag for future violent behavior, there is no telling how many violent incidences we could have stopped. Women who enter domestic violence shelters routinely report that their abuser used the threat of, or actual violence against the family pet to control and terrorize. Often this was in front of children, also meant to control and scare them into submission.

This session we were able to expand our cross reporting law with the help of the Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families, Joette Katz, and the Commissioner of Agriculture, Steve Reviczky. They have been stars in cooperating and working together with the Children's Committee to expand our ability to intercede when animal cruelty is evident in a household that also has children.



*Rep Urban and her Children's Committee Co-Chair discuss strategies on their way to the Capitol for session.*

