

Protecting our Homes and our Families

Many of you have contacted me regarding the tragic crimes committed in Cheshire last summer. During a recently held special session of the General Assembly, the legislature adopted a criminal justice reform package in response to this horrific event.



This package was the result of a series of recommendations made by the legislature's Judiciary Committee and a task force formed by the Governor.

The proposals were also subject to public hearings and serious debate in both the House and Senate. It is my hope that this legislation will make a real difference in improving our justice system, particularly communication and parole policies. Included are the following:

- Establishing a new crime of "home invasion," which will be considered a violent crime
- Re-working our state's persistent offender statutes ("three strikes law") so that they are more usable for prosecutors
- Creating a full time parole board and expanding its staff to include victim advocates and a forensic psychologist
- Establishing tougher and more secure re-entry procedures for offenders returning to the community after completion of their sentence
- Creating a new computer system for sharing criminal justice information among law enforcement agencies, the Judicial Branch, and related agencies
- Enhancing the crime victim notification law
- Limiting the reasons that the Department of Correction can grant furloughs to inmates
- Increasing supervised residential placements for sex offenders who have completed their sentences
- Expanding the use of global positioning system (GPS) monitoring of parolees

Sandy Nafis • Representing the 27th District • Newington



Legislative Office Building, Room 4047
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
At the Capitol: (860) 240-8585 or
1-800-842-8267 (toll free)
At Home: (860) 666-9287
E-mail: sandy.nafis@cga.ct.gov

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State Representative
Sandy H. Nafis

Assistant Majority Leader
27th District - Newington



**General Notes
and News from
the Capitol**

SESSION INFORMATION

The 2008 Legislative Session:

So, What is a Short Session Anyway?

The Connecticut legislature runs on a biennial calendar. The session held the first year after an election, odd-numbered years such as last year, is a "long" session that runs from January to June. During the long session all legislators can introduce bills and, most importantly, a two-year budget is adopted.

The second-year session, in even-numbered years such as 2008, is the "short" session, from February to May. In the short session, legislators may introduce bills that pertain to adjustments necessary for the budget or in order to raise revenue, but only committee chairs may introduce bills on any other topic.

The Budget Process

The budget is an enormous document that lays out, in fairly general terms, how the state's money will be spent. It is the topic of extensive negotiation between the Governor's office and the leadership of the House and Senate. The final product of those negotiations is then presented to the full House and Senate for an "up or down" vote. Amendments can be introduced to change line items, but any increase in expenditures in one area must be balanced with a decrease (or a revenue increase) in another.

The Importance of Staying Involved

Constituent input is important to legislators. It helps us to know your priorities and gives us an opportunity to communicate information on various issues.

Please visit my website, www.housedems.ct.gov/Nafis/, and if you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail me at Sandy.Nafis@cga.ct.gov or you may phone the Capitol at (860) 240-8585 or toll-free 1-800-842-8267.

NEWINGTON / REGIONAL NEWS

American Cancer Society Relay for Life

Celebrate.

Remember.

Fight back.

"We're ALL in this Together"

Celebrate – Remember – Fight back

Celebrate cancer survivors • Remember loved ones
Fight back against cancer with your community

Relay for Life of Newington will be held on

May 30 and 31, 2008

3 pm Friday – 10 am Saturday
Mill Pond Park



Many survivor activities planned –

For additional information please contact

Jan Vumback at **666-4565** or

j.vumback@sbcglobal.net

www.relayforlife.org 1-800-ACS-2345 www.cancer.org

Active Transportation Initiative

The Capitol Region Council of Governments is undertaking a new initiative to encourage more walking and bicycling in the Hartford Region and to provide a safe and adequate system of routes.

Imagine the possibilities:

- decreased congestion
- cleaner air
- strong communities
- healthy residents



In **Newington**, the Greenways' Alliance, a complement to this effort, has been formed, which meets the second Thursday of each month at the Town Hall. For further information, contact Mitch Page at **667-1835**.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

Elderly and disabled renters

You may also be eligible for tax rebates. Apply between May 15 and September 15. Call the Newington Senior and Disabled Center at **665-8778**.

Elderly and disabled homeowners

You may be eligible for the **Circuit Breaker Tax Relief Program**. Apply between February 1 and May 15. For information, please call the Newington Senior and Disabled Center at **665-8778**.

Home Repair Program for Seniors

The Home Solutions program is a service that provides financial support for house repairs, hazardous material abatement, septic system repair, removal or enlargement,



and emergency repairs for senior citizens. For more information, call Home Solutions at **(860) 347-4465**.

Services for Veterans:



Veterans Infoline • Benefit Questions

1-866-928-8387

Veterans Property Tax Exemption:

Newington Tax Assessor • **665-8530**

U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs • **1-800-827-1000**

State of Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs

1-800-550-0000

www.ct.gov/ctva