

Pubic Hearing

Statewide Plan for use of ARRA Weatherization Funds

Written Testimony - May 5, 2009

I support the current DSS plan in overall scope and concept, particularly the use of the Community Action Agency network to deliver the services. The five current sub-grantees have the experience and expertise to ensure that this unusual opportunity is taken full advantage of.

The Access Community Action Agency is one the five current sub-grantees that provide the Weatherization Assistance Program services to low-income homes in CT. Access has been the sole sub-grantee for eastern CT which includes New London, Tolland and Windham Counties. Some facts about the program in eastern CT that Access operates:

- For the past 15 years, as the sole Weatherization sub-grantee for all of Windham, Tolland and New London Counties, Access has consistently met or surpassed the goals set by DSS that establish the number of units to weatherize in each town throughout the region.
- Access currently operates the largest Weatherization Program in CT - both in units weatherized and total funds expended. Currently, we are in the process of getting 250 units weatherized using our current Dept. of Energy funding that comes to us through DSS. Ramping up to accomplish this will allow us to hit the ground running when the ARRA funds are allocated to the region.
- During the upcoming three-year period, the \$6M that DSS proposes to allocate to eastern CT is targeted to weatherize an average of *five additional units per week*. That's one unit each weekday. Access is surpassing that rate with our current program.
- If the portion of the \$20M slated for DECD is allocated to the CAAs either directly or through subcontract, an additional \$4.8M would likely come to eastern CT. That would increase the average to just fewer than two units per day. Given Access's record, it is simply inaccurate and misleading to suggest as some have that Access's ability to meet this increased demand is "highly suspect".
- Consistent with the proposed State Plan, Preliminary planning meetings have been held with TVCCA, the Eastern Workforce Investment Board and Quinnibaug Community College to discuss how best to collaborate on this great opportunity. Access is prepared to sub-contract services to TVCCA – our partner Community Action Agency in New London County. A draft written plan was developed and shared with TVCCA as to how we might work together to

achieve the targeted results. Again, it is misleading and inaccurate to suggest as some have that *Access* is unwilling to partner with TVCCA. Not giving an organization everything they want does not equal an unwillingness to partner with them.

- Although the State Plan does not specify this, some have suggested that the program and all related funding for entire regions should be subcontracted to organizations that have *not* conducted weatherization work for 15 years. Two significant problems with this approach are that the institutional knowledge of the current Wx provider will not be maximized and administrative structures and functions would be unnecessarily duplicated. This latter problem is in direct contradiction to what both the Legislature and the Governor have consistently said is needed during these difficult economic times - consolidation of administrative functions.
- What will ensure the highest quality and best use of these funds is to allow regions to build on the *existing* infrastructure and expertise that exists in each region of the state. Doing so will allow the development of partnerships appropriate to meet the needs of each region. In the case of eastern CT, *Access* is able to leverage funds through our HUD-funded Lead Elimination Action Program, the utility funded Weatherization Residential Assistance Program known as WRAP, Small Cities programs and Landlord contributions. Over the past three years, *Access* has leveraged the most landlord contributions. Each of these programs serves all three counties.
- Given *Access's* track record over the past 15 years and our demonstrated ability to weatherization 250 units in the next few months, there is no need for a temporary sub-grantee in eastern CT. There is however, as the plan outlines, the need for partnerships that make sense for the region and the low-income people who live there. *Access* is committed to making those partnerships work.

Regarding, the distribution formula in the proposed State Plan – while *Access* believes DSS is right to allocate \$28.5M of the ARRA funds to the existing Weatherization providers, we have concerns about how DSS plans to allocate the remaining \$38.8M, particularly \$20M designated for DECD. This raises the following concerns:

- Federal Department of Energy statute and regulations* require preferences and sets up procedures that favor experienced, effective W.A.P program operators. It appears that those procedures and preferences have not been observed by DSS.

- DoE regulation requires that *before* awarding any weatherization work to other than a current provider, a formal procedure must be followed that results in a finding that the current provider is *not* capable of performing that work. No such process is reflected in the plan and as far as we know, no such process has taken place.
- Because DoE regulations do not allow WAP work on units where utilities are included in the rent, we believe that many if not most public housing units do not qualify for use of these funds.

CT's Community Action Agency network is prepared to do what it takes to ensure CT makes the best of this unprecedented opportunity. And as the recognized longstanding Weatherization experts in New London, Windham and Tolland Counties, Access is ready, willing, qualified and has the capacity to embrace this unique opportunity to work with our partners to help move eastern CT toward increased energy independence and family economic stability.

Submitted by:

Kathryn Crees
Vice-President of Development and Community Services
Access Community Action Agency
1315 Main St.
Willimantic, CT
kathy.crees@accessagency.org

(*Federal DoE Statute 10 CFR 400.15)

Town of Franklin
Office of the First Selectman

Franklin Town Hall
7 Meeting House Hill Road
Franklin, Connecticut 06254

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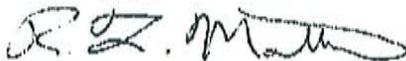
May 6, 2009

Claudette Beaulieu, Acting Commissioner
State of Connecticut
Department of Social Services
25 Sigourney Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-5033

Dear Ms. Beaulieu:

The residents of the Town of Franklin have benefited greatly from the services provided by the Access Community Action Agency, including the weatherization services. Access has provided assistance to make homes more energy-efficient, and help low-income families make finances go further by reducing energy costs. The Town of Franklin looks forward to a continued relationship with the Access Community Action Agency in the future.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Matters,
First Selectman

RLM:tlh

cc: Access Community Action Agency

Room 3300
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591



860-240-8600
Williams@senatedems.ct.gov
www.senatedems.ct.gov

State of Connecticut
SENATOR DONALD E. WILLIAMS, JR.
Twenty-ninth District
President Pro Tempore

May 5, 2009

Ms. Claudette Beaulieu
Acting Commissioner
CT Department of Social Services
25 Sigourney Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5033

Dear Acting Commissioner Beaulieu:

The *Access* Community Action Agency has been the provider of Weatherization and WRAP (Weatherization Residential Assistance Programs) services in Windham, Tolland, and New London Counties for the past 15 years.

The residents of these many towns have benefited greatly from the services *Access* has provided. They have provided assistance to make homes more energy efficient and these services help low-income families stretch their finances by reducing what they spend on energy.

I fully support the work of the *Access* Community Action Agency and it is my strong recommendation that the Department of Social Services continues to work with *Access* as a sub-grantee and allow them to develop their partnerships in these areas to continue to make these communities a better place to live and work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald E. Williams, Jr.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Donald E. Williams, Jr.



Jennifer Gottlieb

Assistant City Manager

May 6, 2009

Ms. Claudette Beaulieu
Acting Commissioner
CT Department of Social Services
25 Sigourney Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5033

Dear Ms. Beaulieu,

This is to confirm that the City of Norwich entered into an agreement on June 30, 2008 with the Access Agency for provision of weatherization services at properties that receive Lead Hazard Reduction funds. A copy of this agreement is attached. To date, the City of Norwich and the Access Agency have not directly collaborated on any projects. The City has a need for weatherization that far exceeds the units that will receive Lead Hazard Reduction funds.

The City of Norwich is pleased for the opportunity to work with any community action agency that services our area and does not have an exclusive agreement with any agency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Gottlieb".

Jennifer Gottlieb
Assistant City Manager

Enclosure

100 Broadway, Norwich, CT 06360
Phone: (860) 823-3746 Fax: (860) 885-2131
E-Mail: jelazhari@cityofnorwich.org
www.norwichct.org

Agreement Between
The City of Norwich
And
Access Community Action Agency (Access)
Concerning A Proposed
Norwich Lead Paint Hazard Reduction Program

WHEREAS,

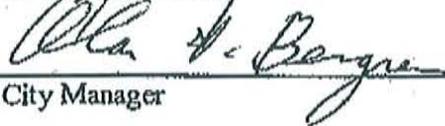
- the City of Norwich (the City) has some of the highest indication of lead poisoning in the State of Connecticut; and
- the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has made funding available through the Lead Paint Hazard Control Program; and
- Access administers a 'weatherization program' funded by the Federal Department of Energy.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT;

- 1) The City, will apply for HUD funding through the Lead Hazard Control Program for benefit to low and moderate income households and individuals in the City; and
- 2) Access will work cooperatively with this program should funding be provided through HUD's Lead Paint Hazard Control Program; and
- 3) The role of the Access will be to refer potential clients to the program and distribute educational materials to its customers; and
- 4) The City and Access will work together to
 - Reduce lead poisoning in the City's population; and
 - Make housing units lead safe.

Agreed to by

For City of Norwich

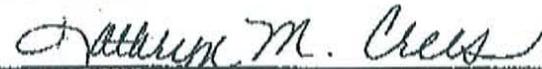


City Manager

6-30-08

Date

For Access



Director of Development and Home Services

6-27-08

Date

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Letters of Thanks and Commendation from Southeastern CT customers

Thanks – what a difference in our house.... Uncasville, CT

Thank you so much – the job was well done
and the people were very nice. Griswold, CT

A most pleasant and advantageous program
I appreciate every step through the program
with the courteous and professional attention
to my self and my home. Mystic, CT

Thank you for doing such good work...I am
grateful to you all and appreciate all you do. Quaker Hill, CT

This was very well done and educational
at the same time...Thank you and your staff. Pawcatuck, CT

I really appreciate the wonderful job you people
did for me. Thank you so much. Norwich, CT

What a wonderful service you're providing to us
Seniors! It was very much appreciated. New London, CT

We were very satisfied with all the work ...
Thank you. Lisbon, CT



[close window](#)

Congress looks to help tighten homes from leaking dollars

By [Anthony Cronin](#)

Published on 9/4/2008 in [Home](#) » [Business](#) » [Business Main Photo](#)

New London - Barry Truskowski is a Sherlock Holmes when it comes to drafts, leaky windows or missing insulation.

He can, with his trusty energy-saving devices, detect where cold air is coming into homes, resulting in heating dollars figuratively flying out the window, or up the flue in some cases.

The energy analyst with the Willimantic-based Access social-services agency is a skilled detective when it comes to scanning homes for energy efficiency - or usually a lack thereof.

So bright and early Wednesday morning, Truskowski was checking out the 1917-built home of Peter Hart at 545 Montauk Ave. in New London to determine how the two-story home could be made more energy efficient - and more wallet-friendly for the homeowner.

"We've got air leaking into this house," said the energy auditor, "and we're going to find it."

"Now I put on my Sherlock Holmes cap," Truskowski said as he began searching closed windows, doors and even the trap door to the attic for leaks, while a special fan inserted into the front door pulled air out of the house during the brief test.

Hart, who has been in the house for about two years, says his electric heating bill last winter was a big burden. He estimates he spent more than \$3,000 during last year's heating season trying to keep the house reasonably warm.

U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, who represents the Second Congressional District, was also on hand Wednesday morning, watching as Truskowski searched for insulation, broken windows or cracks and checked the windows and interior walls for leaks.

As part of his move to raise awareness of how beneficial energy-efficiency programs can be for homeowners such as Hart, Courtney toured three homes in New London, Danielson and Tolland on Wednesday to see firsthand how energy audits are performed.

"This has been a battle every year," Courtney said of congressional attempts to increase federal funding for energy-efficiency programs, such as the one benefitting Hart's Montauk Avenue home.

Courtney said the New England congressional caucus will push for at least \$1 billion in funding for energy-efficiency programs in the coming fiscal year.

The congressman has also introduced legislation called the Families and Small Business Energy Tax Relief Act of 2008 that would provide temporary tax credits to small businesses and families to help pay energy costs.

The federal Department of Energy funds the weatherization-assistance program. Over the past three decades, it has provided such services to more than 5.6 million lower-income families. On average weatherization services help to reduce heating bills by about 32 percent and overall energy bills by about \$358 a year.

Last year, the nonprofit Access agency - which is partially funded by the federal weatherization program - provided energy-saving services to more than 600 people in Windham, Tolland and New London counties. This year, there's a waiting list of some 350 homeowners.

The agency's services include energy audits such as those offered by Truskowski, installation of new attic and wall insulation, new windows, heating system repairs and caulking and weather stripping of various doors and windows.

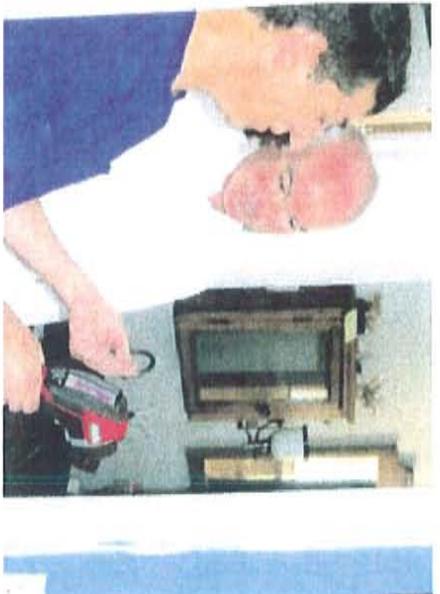
A.CRONIN@THEDAY.COM

Regional

Total 1 images.



Second District Congressman Joe Courtney watches Wednesday as Barry Truszkowski of Access Weatherization performs a blower test of a door's air leakage during an energy audit of Peter Hart's New London home. Courtney was on a fact-finding tour as Congress considers tax credits to help small businesses and families with high energy bills. Truszkowski's work is funded by a federal grant.



Keeping energy costs from going through the roof

BY MATT SANDERSON
VILLAGER STAFF WRITER

DANIELSON — Congressman Joe Courtney (D-Conn., 2nd District) and representatives from the Access Agency paid three residents in three different counties a visit last Wednesday to go over reducing household energy costs through the agency's weatherization assistance program.

Access Agency's weatherization assistance program began approximately 30 years ago, according to Kathryn Crees, director of development of community services. She said the program consists of various

measures taken to make a home more energy efficient. A weatherization audit is performed at a home to know where energy is escaping the house.

"Measures include insulation,

Courtesy photo

Left to right, Congressman Joe Courtney listens to Mike Bernier, weatherization coordinator for Access Agency, and Carol Shea, of Pelletier Contracting, at Sheppard's home.

Congressman Joe Courtney examines how Barry Truskowski, energy auditor for the Access Agency, performs a weatherization audit last Wednesday, Sept. 3 at the home of Stacy Sheppard in Danielson.

Matt Sanderson photo

KILLINGLY VILLAGER

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(860) 928-1808; email: news@killingsvillagespapers.com

'An Idealist is a person who helps other people to be prosperous.'

Friday, September 12, 2008

Library's HVAC to be replaced

BY MATT SANDERSON
VILLAGER STAFF WRITER

DANIELSON — In a unanimous vote Tuesday night, Sept. 9, at a town meeting, an ordinance was acted on to spend a supplemental \$50,000 for the replacement and upgrading of the Killingly Public Library's heating, ventilation and air conditioning system.

According to Town Council Chairman Robert Young, \$100,000 for the system comes from the 2007-08 capital improvement budget. He said the remaining \$50,000 comes from what is called the unallocated fund balance in the general fund.

Since the size of the spending was \$50,000, the town is required by its charter to hold a public meeting in order to get the ordinance approved.

Young said the only bid received was for \$150,797 from New England Service & Controls of Moosup.

"It was falling," Marie Chartier, director of the library, said of the current HVAC system. "There was no

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Matt Sanderson photo

CRUISING THROUGH KILLINGLY

Killingly held its fourth annual Cruisin' Killingly car cruise last Friday evening, Sept. 5, at Davis Park. According to Tom Dooley, Parks and Recreation director, there were 72 vintage, classic and sports cars entered into this year's event. There were prizes, awards, giveaways, food vendors and cash prizes, and The Great Garage Band Reunion played oldies and Motown music. In the "Duel for the Leathers" contest, resident Sally Schader won for the woman with her 1955 Ford Victoria decked out in pink with pink interior and pink neon lights. Dooley could not locate the name of the man who won the other half of that competition by the time the Villager went to press. Above, Mike Adams, of Danielson, stands with his 1968 Pontiac Lemons 350. See more photos, page A6.

Town Council takes on hefty agenda

BY MATT SANDERSON
VILLAGER STAFF WRITER

DANIELSON — The Town Council dealt with a bloated agenda Tuesday night, Sept. 9, which speaks loudly about the number of projects and ordinance proposals going on in an ever-growing town.

"We have about 20 to 25 projects in form right now," said Town Manager Bruce Benway.

In all, the council stayed until midnight to finish off 18 combined new and old business items, as well as town meeting business.

An ordinance was passed for a supplemental \$1,700,000 in state and federal funds in spending for the Rock Avenue Bridge project.

Benway said they expect to receive the approval to bid in late fall or early winter for construction next year. The bridge, he said, is both structurally deficient and functionally obsolete. It spans approximately 40 feet over Five Mile River and has been affecting people who live near the bridge and those who travel Rock Avenue from Maple Street to Main Street, he said. The timetable for the construc-

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Courtesy photo

Deborah Kennett, assistant treasurer and branch manager of the Savings Institute Bank and Trust, presents the "Caring the Giving" check to Diane Manning, president and CEO of United Services.

DCF praises United Services work

RECENT FUNDS RAISED FROM SUNFLOWER EVENT, BANK DONATION

BY MATT SANDERSON
VILLAGER STAFF WRITER

KILLINGLY — The Department of Children and Families (DCF) is hailing United Services for being among Connecticut's most effective and efficient community providers for child guidance services. The state agency indicates that United Services, with locations in Dayville, Willimantic, Wauregan and Columbia, is the largest provider of Child Guidance Clinic (CGC) Services in Connecticut.

Beyond that, United Services in Dayville has continued receiving generous contributions and recent-

ly completed its fourth annual Sunflowers for Kids fund-raiser.

According to DCF, the United Services' CGC was serving 8.6 percent of all CGC cases in the state as of the beginning of the most recent reporting period. As one of 28 statewide CGC providers, DCF proclaims that United Services routinely exceeds more than 8 percent of the state caseload, which is the most in the state throughout the year.

"United Services serves the largest number of children in northeast Connecticut," said Diane Manning, president and CEO

"United Services is proud to have helped so many children and families. While we've always been confident of the quality of our services, it's wonderful to know that the DCF statistics reflect this fact."

While United Services works with 8.6 percent of the state's children and families who receive treatment services through psychiatric outpatient clinics for children, it receives only 7.7 percent of state funding to provide these services.

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Keeping energy costs from going through the roof

COURTNEY, ACCESS AGENCY TEAM UP FOR WEATHERIZATION TOURS

BY MATT SANDERSON
VILLAGER STAFF WRITER

DANIELSON — Congressman Joe Courtney (D-Conn., 2nd District) and representatives from the Access Agency paid three residents in three different counties a visit last Wednesday to go over reducing household energy costs through the agency's weatherization assistance program.

Access Agency's weatherization assistance program began approximately 30 years ago, according to Kathryn Crees, director of development of community services. She said the program consists of various measures taken to make a home more energy efficient. A weatherization audit is performed at a home to know where energy is escaping the house.

"Measures include insulation,

Turn To ENERGY, page A13



Left to right, Congressman Joe Courtney listens to Mike Bernis, weatherization coordinator for Access Agency, and Carol Shea, of Pelletier Contracting, at Sheppard's home. Congressman Joe Courtney examines how Barry Truszkewski, energy auditor for the Access Agency, performs a weatherization audit last Wednesday, Sept. 3 at the home of Stacy Sheppard in Danielson.



Courtesy photo

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FITNESS
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KILLINGLY
PUTS ON A
SHOW
PAGE A6



VILLAGER TRIVIA!
Who was the first Red Sox
player to lead the American
League in stolen bases?
Answer on page 2.

POLICE LOG

Editor's Note: The information contained in these police logs was obtained through either press releases or other public documents kept by each police department and is considered to be the account of police. All subjects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

BROOKLYN

Tuesday, Sept. 2
Matthew A. Tansley, 24, 42 Bailey Woods Road, Brooklyn. Charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs or alcohol, failure to grant a right of way at an intersection.

Friday, Sept. 5
Tyron Barrow, 31, 154A Brittain Farms Road, New Britain. Charged with possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and intent to sell.

DANIELSON

Wednesday, Sept. 3
Frederick J. Todeschi, 37, 14 Irene St., Danielson. Charged with attempted felony murder, second-degree assault, first-degree reckless endangerment, violation of a protective order and second-degree breach of peace.

Thursday, Sept. 4
Bethany Koutilla, 19, 69 Sprague St., Danielson. Charged with violation of protective order.

Michael Howard, 50, 15 Spring St., Danielson. Charged with breach of peace.

Christopher Fitton, 22, 51-B Dyer St., Danielson. Charged with violation of protective order.

Richard A. Wessell, 69, 49 Cottage St., Danielson. Charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct.

Gary H. Porter, 35, 43B Commerce Ave., Danielson. Charged with breach of peace.

Jessica I. Taylor, 20, 306 Hartford Pike, East Killingly. Charged with disorderly conduct, third-degree assault and intent to cause injury to a minor.

Ernest C. Cassie, 46, 3 Water St., Danielson. Charged with disorderly conduct, peeping Tom, voyeurism, and risk of injury and impairing the morals of a child.

Friday, Sept. 5
Ryan A. Mendes, 20, 6 Ralph Road, Plainfield. Charged with third-degree burglary, criminal mischief and sixth-degree larceny.

Miranda Millet, 29, 932 Thompson Road, Thompson. Charged with possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Saturday, Sept. 6
Frederick J. Todeschi, 37, 14 Irene Ave., Danielson. Charged with violation of protective order.

Monday, Sept. 8
Cathy King, 35, 7-B Water St., Danielson. Charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and risk of injury and impairing the morals of a child.

Daniel Delville, 19, 16-B Church St., Dayville. Charged with possession of drug paraphernalia.

Ryan T. Simmons, 29, 152 Main St., Apt. A, Danielson. Charged with being a fugitive from justice.

Earl R. Cooper, 59, 82A Reynolds St., Danielson. Charged with criminal attempt to purchase a firearm, criminal possession of faulty documents to purchase a firearm and false statement on the sale transfer of purchasing a firearm.

EASTFORD

Thursday, Sept. 4
John Deary III, 23, 294 Quasset Road, Pomfret. Charged with third-degree criminal mischief.

Thomas Diaz, 22, 70 West Colburn Road, Canterbury. Charged with criminal mischief.

Friday, Sept. 5
Shailyn Payton, 20, 6 Margaret Lane, Plainfield. Charged with criminal mischief.

KILLINGLY

Thursday, Sept. 4
Brenda Genter, 46, 118 Furnace St., Apt. 2, Danielson. Charged with sixth-degree larceny.

Carol Houston, 59, 118 Furnace St., Apt. 2, Danielson. Charged with sixth-degree larceny.

Friday, Sept. 5
Jeremy Motrong, 24, 45 Hubbard Hill Road, Danielson. Charged with possession of marijuana and operating a motor vehicle without insurance.

Saturday, Sept. 6
Justin Burton, 28, no certain address, Killingly. Charged with driving a motor vehicle while intoxicated, misuse of a motor vehicle, having an unregistered motor vehicle, no muffler, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and failure to carry a driver's license.

POMFRET

Thursday, Sept. 6
Stephen W. Luter, 55, 89 Soap St., Dayville. Charged with driving a motor vehicle while intoxicated and failure to drive right on a curve.

THOMPSON

Tuesday, Sept. 2
Daniel J. Gomes, 24, 223 Stavicki Road, Thompson. Charged with violation of a restraining order.

Saturday, Sept. 6
Byron Patterson, 28, 209 Thompson Road, Thompson. Charged with violation of a protective order, unlawful restraint and interfering with a 911 call.

WOODSTOCK

Saturday, Sept. 6
Dennis Lane, 46, 633 Route 189, Woodstock. Charged with risk of injury to a minor and third-degree assault.

Access Agency conducts energy-efficient house tours

ENERGY
continued from page A1

storm windows, doors, caulking, clean tune, and tests of furnaces and repair," she said. "In addition, low-flow aerators, energy-efficient light bulbs, etc. will save on the electric bill. Homeowners are provided with information regarding what they can do to save energy like shutting off computers and unplugging items."

The weatherization tour last Wednesday included a stop at a house in New London, a house in Tolland and the home of Stacey Sheppard in Danielson.

She said the congressmen and representatives from the agency spent more than six hours auditing and working on her house.

"They sealed up my windows and insulated my basement door," said Sheppard. "They're coming back to blow insulation into my walls and change my light bulbs."

Sheppard said she was contacted last May by Courtney about the tour and thought it would be a good idea.

"I think it will make a big difference," she said about the upcoming winter and the agency's help. "I applied for aid assistance in April."

Cress said the visits provided people the opportunity to understand the importance of weatherizing their homes.

"In a time when oil is at an all-time high and the cost of living is going through the roof for everyone, it highlights how important it is to keep your heat inside your home and not let it escape through the roof and windows," she said.

Cress said Courtney had requested the tour in order to familiarize himself with the process.

"Congressman Courtney is trying very hard to restore and add funds to this program," she said.

Courtney said the weatherization program is federally funded through the Department of Energy.

"It's a very smart program," he said, "because if taxpayers are going to be paying for fuel expenses, we should couple that program to make sure that the homes that are benefiting are as energy efficient as possible."

Courtney said last year an energy budget called \$250 million for weatherization programs across the country.

"President Bush requested zero dollars," Courtney said about this year's weatherization budget request. "So, we had to overcome that. It makes no sense to pay for heat if you have homes that are full of cracks."

He said they are in the midst of another budget battle in Congress to counter the proposed 2008 increase for weatherization spending. He said the New England caucus calls for quadrupling the \$250 million in weatherization spending to \$1 billion.

Courtney said that during the weatherization tour, such as at the Sheppard household, they sucked the energy out of the house so they were able to tell where air was coming in.

"There was no insulation along the foundation and there were old windows," he said about one of the houses they toured. "The readings we got was that the home was using about twice as much energy with which what would have been the case if they had proper insulation."

Courtney said that in Danielson they mostly did the second phase of the process, which was the actual fixing of windows, caulking and sealing.

"The home was energy eligible," he said.

Access Agency has two different sources of funding for the weatherization program, according to Cress. She said one is through the Department of Energy and the other is through Connecticut Light and Power called the Weatherization Residential Assistance Partnership (WRAP).

"With the Department of Energy funds we anticipate serving 200 households in Windham, Tolland and New London counties," she said. "Through WRAP, since January we have served 774 households, which by the end of the year will represent about 1,500 households."

For more information on the weatherization program, call Access Agency at 450-7146 or visit online at www.accessagency.org. For more information on Courtney's energy initiatives, visit www.josecourney.com or contact his campaign headquarters in Vernon at 577-8381.

Matt Sanderson may be reached at (860) 926-1818, ext. 110, or by e-mail at matt.vil.lager@newspapers.com.

Killingly Library's HVAC system to be replaced

LIBRARY
continued from page A1

dehumidification in the original specification.

During a hot summer day, the library would be sweltering inside.

Charlier said she has maintained from day one that whoever designed the system should have been required to work for the town because there were inadequacies from the beginning.

"We had to be very careful about photocopying," she said. "If the children's librarian had a large batch, to make for the schools and it's very humid, the ink runs."

Charlier said the library has been in the building, formerly an A&P grocery store, for 14 fiscal years.

"We closed early this past Saturday because of the lack of air conditioning and because of the 77 percent humidity," she said.

According to Assistant Town Manager Kimberly Darigan Newman, the old HVAC system caused so many issues and complaints.

"Over the past summer months, the library has frequently been concerned about air quality," particularly when Tropical Storm Hanna touched down in the northeast, she said.

Newman said the library was tested in nine locations for air quality twice by Mystic Air Quality Consultants in March 2006.

"It depicted zero to minimal levels of growth," she said about any gases

present. "We had the air ducts thoroughly cleaned. The black residue found was a septic on the outside of the building, not inside the building."

Newman said there were two separate issues that came from the poor HVAC system, located on the roof, that library staff seemed to correlate as one problem.

"There's an obvious heating and cooling issue, and it's the library staff who believed that this is leading to a toxic mold," she said. "About every year and a half it's complained about."

Newman said two reports from the consultant group are on file at Town Hall that are public record.

"Come and see them," she said. She said there's been no reported sick times or leaves of absence from the library staff attributed to the air quality.

According to Town Manager Bruce Benway, the library has been looking to repair the HVAC system since 2006. The ordinance will take effect in 15 days after the Tuesday, Sept. 5, Town Council meeting.

He said the new HVAC system will be located on the roof like the old one, and will be running ducts and ventilation shafts all over the library just like the old one.

When the new system is installed, the inside air quality will be greatly improved," said Benway.

He said the new system, with consulting the time period on the delivery of the equipment, will be up and running within six weeks or so.

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On July 19, 2006 Linda Garcia and Michael Bogdanaki were married by Justice of the Peace and Real Estate mogul Dick Loomis.

The ceremony and reception were held at the Gold Eagle at the Laurel House in Dayville, Ct. The wedding party included best man James Bogdanaki, son of the groom, maid of honor Sara Garcia, daughter of the bride, groomsmen Dan Garcia, son of the bride, and bridesmaid Barbara Chubbuck, close friend of the couple.

After the reception, an after-party was held in Woodstock at the home of John Kuehle and Lynn Pasquerella, where pianist Mike Funa entertained. The couple spent their honeymoon in Puerto Cans, and reside in Putnam.

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Dorothy M. Grady
Field Representative/Caseworker
Office of Congressman Joe Courtney
101 Water Street, Suite 301
Norwich, CT 06360
860-886-0139
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U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
Joe Courtney
Representing Connecticut's 2nd Congressional District

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U.S. Representative Joe Courtney, Representing Connecticut's 2nd Congressional District

Dear Friend,

Last week, I visited homes throughout the Second Congressional District to advocate for more federal funding for home weatherization programs. I want to help Connecticut's families save money on energy costs this winter and making eastern Connecticut homes more energy efficient will help.

[Click here to read The New London Day's coverage of the tour.](#)

I toured homes in New London, Danielson, and Tolland with Willimantic's Access Agency. At each home, I observed first hand the different resources available to make the homes energy efficient and reduce each homeowner's energy costs in the upcoming winter. In addition, I stressed the importance of providing federal funding to support

critical programs, like Access, who provide home heating and weatherization assistance to low-income households.



Congressman Courtney and a weatherization expert prepare to pump new insulation into a Tolland home.

I put the spotlight on one of the smartest, most cost-effective energy programs funded federally and operated locally. Last year, I helped fund the Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program at \$227 million, \$23 million more than the 2007 funding level and just under \$85 million more than the President's budget request. This year, I am focused on reversing President Bush's misguided decision to eliminate the weatherization program.

According to the Department of Energy, the Weatherization Assistance Program enables low-income families to permanently reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient. Over the last 30 years, the program has provided weatherization services to more than 5.6 million low-income families. On average, weatherization reduces heating bills by 32 percent and overall energy bills by \$358 per year at current prices.

The Access Agency is a non-profit organization that is partially funded by the DOE Weatherization program. In 2007, Access provided weatherization services to 610 persons living in Windham, Tolland and New London counties. Their [Weatherization Residential Assistance Program \(WRAP\)](#) has provided services to 6,679 households including: energy audits, installation of new attic and sidewall insulation and windows, heating repairs, new heating systems and caulking and weather-stripping of doors and windows.

For more information on home weatherization, please contact the Access Agency at 860-450-7400.

Should you have any comments or questions regarding this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me by [email](#). I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Joe Courtney

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