



# Capitol Region Update

**July 2006**

**Capitol Region Council of Governments**

**[www.crcog.org](http://www.crcog.org)**

## **CRCOG Annual Meeting Held June 29**



Approximately 90 people attended the 38th CRCOG Annual Meeting held at the Manchester Country Club on Thursday, June 29. CRCOG Chair David Kilbon welcomed the attendees.



Former East Hartford Mayor, Tim Larson and past-CRCOG Executive Director Rick Porth chaired a mock-Board meeting with each action resulting in a new assignment for Steve Cassano.



CRCOG Chair reads an appreciation plaque thanking Steve Cassano for his eight years as Chair of CRCOG and for his 29 years of service (to date) to the organization.



Past-chair Steve Cassano makes remarks to the CRCOG Annual Meeting.



Representative David McCluskey and Senator Jonathan Harris discussed legislative issues for the region.



Dave Kilbon presents Tom Maziarz with an award for his 25 years of service to CROG in the transportation department.



Receiving awards for working together to sponsor the One Book Four Towns program were Pat Miles (Cora J. Belden Library-Rocky Hill), Sara Munson (Berlin-Peck Memorial Library), Liz Kirkpatrick (Wethersfield Library),

Betsy Bray (Cora Belden Library), Shirlee-Ann Kober and Jeanette Mercure (Lucy Robbins Welles Library-Newington) and Carrie Tyszka (Berlin-Peck).



The towns of Rocky Hill, Wethersfield and Newington used grant money from DOT to expand their Dial-A-Ride programs. Accepting awards were

Barbara Gilbert, Rocky Hill; Joyce Stille, Wethersfield; Diane Stone from Newington; and Nancy Stilwell and Rae Ann Palmer from Wethersfield.



Dr. Arnold Goldman was honored for his work with large animal rescue.



Dan Scace and Robert Phillips



Howard Dean and Lew Rome



Jeanette Mercure and Shirlee-Ann Kober  
(Lucy Robbins Welles Library-Newington)



Winsome Barnaby, Dick Hines and Gail  
Maziarz chat.



The favors on the tables were from the Connecticut Creative – A General Store. The store located in Hartford sells only items that are made in Connecticut.

## ***Grant Awarded to Promote and Support Agriculture in CRCOG Region***



The Department of Agriculture has awarded CRCOG a \$10,000.00 Agriculture Viability grant to develop model farm-friendly regulations and policies. (Photo shows Elm Knoll Farm in Somers [www.somersnow.com](http://www.somersnow.com)).

The new grant program is the product of Public Act 05-228, which established new funding for municipal open space grants, farm viability and preservation, historic preservation and affordable housing. CRCOG's project aims to promote and support agriculture as an economic development activity throughout the region. CRCOG staff, with assistance from the American Farmland Trust, will work with producers, planners and planning & zoning commissioners in 12 participating municipalities to identify ways in which the local regulatory environment can improve farm viability. The project is expected to take a year to complete, and the resulting model regulatory framework will be available to all towns through the CRCOG website. For further information, contact Community Development Planner Rebecca Augur at [raugur@crcog.org](mailto:raugur@crcog.org) or 522-2217 ext. 29.

## ***Safe Routes to Schools Grant Awarded to Manchester***

Congratulations to Manchester! The Town of Manchester was recently notified that two of the projects it submitted for Safe Routes to Schools grants have been selected by the state for funding. Both projects are in the vicinity of Bowers Elementary School and they involve sidewalk extensions and intersection improvements. The Safe Routes funding was authorized by the federal transportation bill (SAFETEA-LU) and is administered by DOT through its Office of Transportation Safety. Manchester will receive more than \$500,000 of federal funding. How did they apply successfully for the grant? There were three important elements: (1) A Safe Routes plan had been completed for the area; (2) The elementary school is committed to encouraging more students to walk to school and (3) The Department of Public Works, under Mark Carlino's direction, put

together a thorough and clear application. ***If you wish to learn more about the Safe Routes program, contact Sandy Fry, [sfry@crcog.org](mailto:sfry@crcog.org).***

## ***The BearCat – A Law Enforcement Vehicle***



Earlier this month, members of regional Special Weapons and Tactical (SWAT) teams traveled to Lenco Industries located in Pittsfield, Massachusetts to pick up a tactical armored security vehicle, called the "BearCat." The vehicle will serve the region and will be housed at the West Hartford Police Department. The BearCat was funded through CRCOG's homeland security initiative.

## ***Upcoming CRCOG Meetings***

CREPC, Thursday, August 3, 9:30 a.m.

Executive Committee, Wednesday, August 9, 12 noon.

Community Development Committee, Thursday, September 14, 12 noon

Public Safety Council, Thursday, September 14, 12 noon

Transportation Committee, Monday, September 25, 12 noon

CRCOG Policy Board, Wednesday, September 27, 12 noon



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