

# Scare tactics on legal notices leave him unimpressed



**Elio Gugliotti**

The public's right to know isn't a joke. But, a campaign being waged supposedly on behalf of that right is laughable.

For the past several years, cities and towns throughout the state have been clamoring for relief from unfunded state mandates. In an attempt to throw municipalities a bone, Gov. Jodi Rell pro-

posed legislation that would allow them to post public notices on their websites exclusively instead of publishing them in local newspapers.

As things stand now, cities and towns are bound by state law to publish all public notices in a local newspaper.

The Connecticut Daily Newspapers Association countered Rell's proposal with a "public awareness campaign."

You might have seen the ads.

The association is arguing that Rell's proposal would allow municipalities "to bury" public information and would pave the way for political corruption.

"It's like putting the fox in charge of the hen house,"

the ad reads.

So, all that's standing in the way of widespread political corruption is mandating that cities and towns publish public notices in newspapers.

I can see it now. Local politicians are meeting as we speak in smoke-filled, dimly lit backrooms just biding their time until the impregnable wall that is public notices falls to unleash a wave of corruption the likes the state has never seen.

C'mon, politicians have had no problem being corrupt thus far. It's quite the jump to make the conclusion that corruption will increase if public notices aren't published in newspapers.

Hold on, it gets better.

The association continues its argument by stating, "Newspapers are easily verifiable, fully transparent, and represent a secure third party, ..."

True, true, and true, but unfortunately that statement ends with this "... who has nothing to gain from any notice."

There's really no easy way to put this, the latter part is a blatant lie. Newspapers have one very big thing to gain from public notices, ad revenue.

Do you think newspapers publish these notices out of the goodness of their hearts? Do you think these notices are published with the public's interest in my mind?

No, these notices are revenue streams for news-

papers. And we like it that way. What business wouldn't like a state law that guaranteed them customers?

I understand what the association is doing. It's just lobbying for its members.

I have no problem with the association trying to keep the public notice revenue stream flowing. But, come out and say it. Hell, argue the fact that Rell's proposal would hurt businesses in the state. It's a better argument than the whole corruption run amuck thing.

The innuendos and scare tactics don't do anyone any good. They hinder serious debate on the issue. Think about the so called "death panels" talk and what it did to the most pressing debate of our time,

health care reform.

It's obvious the association is just worried about making sure this revenue stream doesn't dry up, and that's all right to be concerned about that. But, don't pretend to be some defender of the public good.

If that was the case then the best solution for municipalities and those worried about rampant government corruption is simply getting newspapers to run these notices for free.

But, you won't see any public awareness campaign for that anytime soon.

*Elio Gugliotti is a staff writer with the Bristol Observer. He can be reached at egugliotti@BristolObserver.com.*

## Relay for Life celebrates 5, asks for community support

To the editor:

The 2009 Bristol Relay For Life was awarded All Star Status at the New England Leadership Summit held in Braintree, Massachusetts. Cancer survivor, Kayla Doucette, Kay-Kay's Survival Team member, Molly Oulette, and myself accepted the award on behalf of the greater Bristol community.

Last year, the Bristol Relay won a Longevity of Excellence Award for highest growth for a five to nine year old event. It was an honor and great way to celebrate our fifth year as a Relay. These awards prove the greater Bristol community cares about their role in fighting cancer.

As Event Chair, I challenge every local business to consider a donation of \$250 for the 2010 Relay. This donation would result in each contributing business being recognized with a track sign that over 1000 people from Bristol, Burlington, Terryville, Harwinton, Wolcott, Waterbury, Plainville, Prospect, Southington and other communities will walk by and see repeatedly. Larger donations of \$1,000 or more will earn a spot on the back of nearly 1000 printed 2010 t-shirts.

Cancer survivors are encouraged to register for and attend our event to Celebrate Life and make new friends. Look for special Survivor activities and fundraising events in the near future. We are always looking to increase the number of teams and vol-



TAMMI KNAPIK

Relay for Life volunteers, left, Jackie and Jessica Swift and Cameron Villanti at last Friday's kick off celebration.

unteers involved in the event. Please note: This is not an Athletic Event. It is a Walk-a-thon. You can walk one lap or 1,000 laps. It is completely up to you and your team. Visit our website at [www.relayforlife.org/bristolct](http://www.relayforlife.org/bristolct) to join or start a team. It only costs \$10 per person to register. Survivors who are not part of a team can register and join us for free. There are numerous ideas for fundraising available and the earlier we start, the easier it is to raise \$100 each. There are many incentives for participants who

raise at least \$250. Contact myself, Danielle Rivard, event chair at (860)314-0068 (leave a message) or at [dbai-ley824@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dbai-ley824@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

Thanks to the many Relay Supporters who came out to our Kickoff Celebration held at Nuchies on Feb. 26. Look for notices on local "meet and greet" sessions if you missed our kickoff and would like to get more information about our event in June.

**Danielle Rivard**  
Event Chair  
Bristol Relay for Life

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