## News Release from Congresswoman

## Nancy Johnson



Fifth District, Connecticut

www.house.gov/nancyjohnson

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** October 4, 2004

**Contact:** Brian Schubert (202) 225-4476

## Johnson Secures \$150,000 for Hub Redevelopment

Federal Funds Help Make Way for Downtown Redevelopment

## Mayor Benigni Salutes Johnson's "Commitment" to Meriden

MERIDEN, CT – Congresswoman Nancy Johnson has secured \$150,000 in federal funds to assist the demolition and redevelopment of the Hub property, making way for Meriden's downtown redevelopment project.

"This is a tremendous boost for Meriden and its future," Johnson said. "I secured these funds to help Meriden realize its plans to make its downtown a thriving economic and cultural center. More needs to be done, and Mayor Benigni and I are committed to continuing this effort to improve Meriden's downtown."

"I thank Congresswoman Johnson coming to Meriden's aid," said Meriden Mayor Mark Benigni. "She has shown great commitment to helping us accomplish our goals. This funding will help us improve the life and vitality of our downtown."

Peggy Brennan, Meriden's Economic Development Director, and Phil Ashton, chairman of the city's Flood Control Implementation Agency, and local city leaders joined Johnson on State Street in Meriden near the Hub to announce the funding today.

The funds will go to help demolish and clean the Hub property in the city's downtown. Demolition of these buildings is required to open up underground conduits and control flooding – a key Meriden's downtown redevelopment plan.

The plan, which includes major transportation, flood control and economic development initiatives, is the result of a unique collaboration between city officials, the Greater Meriden Chamber of Commerce, the Meriden Economic Development Corporation, and the SBC/SNET Foundation. These groups, in addition to local non-profit agencies, civic, arts and neighborhood organizations, have worked with city leaders to identify downtown development opportunities since 2001.