

# Vernon events

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# The Mayor's Corner

Thanks to the hard work of everyone involved, the Town of Vernon's budget passed at the Town Meeting. Superintendent Macary and the Board of Education put together a plan that will move our school system forward without unnecessary burden to our taxpayers. We thank them for their dedication to our students. This team effort allowed us to hold the line on spending while supporting all the needs of our community.

At present, the state's budget is incomplete. We are hopeful that Vernon will not sustain any significant cuts during this difficult process. We will continue to keep an ever watchful eye on the state's budget decisions as they evolve.

As you know, this magazine is designed to feature the programs and sites offered within the Town of Vernon. Credit for this editions cover goes to Jon Roe of the Vernon Volunteer Collaborative. This photograph shows the "Welcome to Vernon Sign" and garden at the former "Vernon Circle" entry way to our town. Back in 2001 the Vernon Garden Club proposed a gateway garden to welcome our visitors and as plans progressed the Town of Vernon added a sign. The Vernon Garden Club has since added garden spaces to all our gateways, designing, tending and maintaining these gardens year round. We are

fortunate to have such willing and selfless volunteers from the Vernon Garden Club within our borders.

The Vernon Volunteer Collaborative contributes four articles to each edition of this magazine featuring three of the volunteer groups they represent and one about the group as a whole. Please take a moment and check out their many activities. Volunteerism is an important part of overall investment in your community. Please consider joining a volunteer group or calling my office and becoming a board or commission member.

Now that the good weather is upon us, you will no doubt notice the many road projects underway around town. Please bear with us as we improve our infrastructure. You will also notice over the course of the spring and summer, several of the elementary schools will be receiving new roofs. If you visit these facilities please take extra care to keep your children away from the construction. Citizen safety is our number one priority.

Have a safe and happy summer!  
Mayor Champagne



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# Meet the New Faces at VPD

In the month of April three new officers started training with the Vernon Police Department. These officers have started their initial field training and can be seen around town with their training officers.



Officer Marikate Villano recently completed a 26 week course of study at the Police Officer Standards and Training Academy in Meriden, CT. She

is now in the field training portion of her probationary training which is scheduled for an additional 14 weeks. Officer Villano graduated from the University of New Haven with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Law Enforcement and completed an internship program with the Cheshire Police Department prior to joining VPD. Prior to fulfilling a life long dream of becoming a police officer, Officer Villano was a recreation specialist at a rehabilitation center.

Officer Thomas Bugbee is a lateral certification officer who formerly was employed by the San Diego County Sheriff's office where he served three years in the Sheriff's Office prior to moving back to Connecticut. He is a graduate of E.O. Smith High School and entered the US Marine Corp after graduation. Officer Bugbee is a Marine Corps Combat Veteran having served his country in the Iraq Theater of Operations where he was awarded the



Navy and Marine Corp Achievement medal and Good Conduct medals.

The police department's new K9 is Tengo. Tengo is a 2 year old German shepherd born in Hungary and is assigned to his new handler, Officer Jeffrey Condon. Tengo was selected by Sgt. Hunt, the Department K-9 program supervisor, and Officer Condon based on his temperament

**Continued on page 5**



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and work drive. Officer Condon and Tengo went through an intense four week training academy at Castle's K9 Inc. in Mechanicsburg, PA. Castle's is a nationally known K9 training facility known for importing partially trained dogs from Europe and completing their training for use in local, state and federal law enforcement in the United States. Tengo is cross trained in patrol/narcotics. The patrol training included tracking, building searching, area searching, evidence/article searching, criminal apprehension and handler

protection. He is trained to detect marijuana, cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine. Tengo was tested and received certifications in the above listed areas through the North American Police Work Dog Association.



## Assessor's Office

### Did you know in your town that:

We have...

- 50 Condominium Complexes consisting of 1,737 units
- 105 Commercial apartments consisting of 4,273 units, with 554 more units now under construction or approved to be built.
- 45 Industrial Properties
- 66 parcels designed for Open Space, Forest or Farmland

- 117 vacant parcels
- 471 Commercial properties
- 24,944 registered motor vehicles
- 1,419 Businesses operating in Vernon
- Approximately 1,950 veterans living in town
- 132 properties abutting some source of water (Lake or Pond)

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## Fishing Derby Results



Saturday April 30th the Town of Vernon Parks and Recreation Department held its 51st Annual Fishing Derby at Valley Falls Pond. The Derby had great support from JT's Fly Shop, Discount Trophy, Wolff Financial, Granby Bail and Swiss Cleaners. Just fewer than 70 participants 15 years old and younger came to cast their lines in hopes of walking away with the John M. Gessay trophy for the heaviest trout. The Fishing Derby is divided into 6 divisions with prizes and medals given to the first, second and third of each division. There was a steady stream of fish with 48 catches ranging from .24 pounds to .99 pounds.

#### John M. Gessay Trophy

Jeff Keroeck

#### Boys 6 and under

1. Wyatt Shemanskis

#### Boys 7-11 years old

1. Logan Shemanskis
2. Cody Horvith
3. James West

#### Boys 12-15 years old

1. Andrew Niemczyk
2. Dylan Vandenheuvel
3. Alex Binimelis

#### Girls 6 and under

1. Sierra Shemanskis
2. Alana Bussiere
3. Cheyenne Shemanskis & Leah Wujcik

#### Girls 7-11 years old

1. Alivia Niewczyk
2. Carly Wujick
3. Faithe Eib

#### Girls 12-15 years old

1. Sienna Hathaway



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An Independent Insurance Agent represents many different companies that they feel are priced well in your area and are great companies to do business with. This allows the independent to review your policies on renewal and perhaps make a recommendation that you change carriers for a better price or other reasons. Your agent is local and knows you, the area and your property. Media has also taught us that if you bundle your

auto and home policies you will save. Although that can be true the reality of the marketplace is that most companies have a much stronger appetite for one or the other and are priced accordingly. Since an independent has many carriers at their disposal they can find a favorable combination for you when bundling is not the best solution. Your independent agent is one stop shopping. They can provide coverage for your auto, home, motorcycle, RV, snowmobile, boat or jet ski. They can even insure your business.

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Limit one free game per person per day. May not be combined with any other coupons or discounted prices. Not valid Friday or Saturday after 6 pm. Expires 7/15/16. This is not endorsed by the school.

# Town Clerk News

## 47th Annual Municipal Clerks Week Was Celebrated in the Office of the Town Clerk May 1 – 7.

Municipal Clerks Week was initiated in 1969 by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) and is endorsed by all of its members, currently numbering 9,500, throughout the United States, Canada, and fifteen other countries. In 1984 and in 1994, Presidents Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton, respectively, signed a proclamation officially declaring Municipal Clerks Week the first full week of May, recognizing the essential role municipal clerks play in local government. IIMC is a professional association of city, village, town, township, borough and county clerks, secretaries, and recorders. IIMC prepares its members to meet the diverse challenges that accompany the role of municipal clerk by providing services and continuing professional development opportunities to benefit members and the government entities they serve.

The Town Clerk's office is responsible for land records management, which includes processing, maintaining, and preserving records and maps affecting the title to land located within the town. The Town Clerk's Office is also responsible

for maintaining records of membership for town boards and commissions as well as serving as the permanent repository for agendas and minutes, acting as agent for service for claims and suits against the town, and receiving trade name (DBA) certificates, liquor permits, and veteran discharges. The office also processes sporting and dog licenses. The Town Clerk's Office coordinates with the Registrars of Voters in regard to conducting and reporting results of elections, primaries, and referenda, including the issuance of absentee ballots and certifying petitions. Assistance is afforded the public, serving as a communication link between the citizens and their town government and providing access to information that is essential to their participation in the democratic process. Since we have a hospital, several health care centers, and three funeral homes, we are responsible for the maintenance, preservation, and issuance of vital records including birth, marriage, death, burial, and cremation records.

Town Clerk Bernice K. Dixon, Assistant Town Clerks Karen C. Daigle and Barri A. Fries, and Administrative Assistant Liz Pendleton strive to serve the residents of Vernon, both former and current, as efficiently and cost effectively as possible.

Submitted by Town Clerk Bernice K. Dixon, MCTC, CMC

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# Vernon Volunteers' Collaborative News Page

The organizations of the Vernon Volunteers' Collaborative (VVC) are known to you primarily by the programs and events we do or by our physical buildings and properties. However many elements of our missions that also benefit the town and deserve recognition are done behind the scenes.

## Scholarships

The Vernon Garden Club, Friends of the Vernon Arts Commission and New England Civil War Museum each offer scholarships to high school students.

## Grants

We receive grants for projects large and small, money that doesn't come from the town budget. Some grants are to preserve open space and historical buildings such as the Friends of Valley Falls' Valley Falls Farm, Northern CT Land Trust's Webster Preserve and the Tolland County Agricultural Center's Gunther Farm. Other grants are for organizational improvements, for developing programs or for special projects or studies such as Vernon Greenways Volunteers Rail-Trail art or the Friends of Hockanum River Linear Park's funding of the Tankerhoosen Watershed Management Plan.

## Summer Events For Families

Rather than the hikes and programs of Spring and Fall, most Summer activities are family oriented. Vernon Parks & Recreation programs are listed elsewhere; in this article are other programs to consider. Specific dates were not available for most activities as this was written, so below are planned programs by organization. As dates become available they will be posted at [VernonVolunteers.org](http://VernonVolunteers.org) under the 'Events' tab. To receive notice of upcoming events please join our MeetUp group. Details are on the 'Events' page.

**Tolland County Agricultural Center.** The annual 4-H Fair will be held the weekend of August 13 & 14. With animals and competitions this is a kid favorite. ([TollandCountyAgriculturalCenter.com](http://TollandCountyAgriculturalCenter.com))

**Friends of Valley Falls.** Tours of the stable and grounds each Wednesday during July and August from 1-3 pm. ([FriendsOfValleyFalls.org](http://FriendsOfValleyFalls.org))

**New England Civil War Museum.** The museum will be open Thursdays as well as second and fourth Sundays during July and August. ([NewEnglandCivilWarMuseum.com](http://NewEnglandCivilWarMuseum.com))

**Belding Wildlife Management Area.** During July and August there will be weekly programs for children on a variety of nature topics.

**Strong Family Farm.** Busy season on the Farm. The 8-week Adopt-a-Chicken program began June 8 and children meet

## Schools

Key too many of our organizations are programs involving students. Examples are the Vernon Garden Club's Jr. Gardeners' Program at Lake Street School, the Vernon Chorale's inclusion of high school students in their spring concert, the Vernon Historical Society's visits by Center Road School students, the Tolland County Agriculture Center's 4-H support, the Vernon Education Association's bookmobile work and Arts Center East's annual show of student work. A number of our groups, such as the Strong Family Farm and Vernon Greenways Volunteers, provide opportunities for high school students to meet their volunteer service requirements.

## Publications

The Vernon Historical Society has published a number of books on town history and the Vernon Education Foundation recently worked with Boy Scouts to write and publish a book on Vernon's early burial grounds.

To learn more about the variety of things our organizations are doing visit [VernonVolunteers.org](http://VernonVolunteers.org) and click the 'News' tab.



Fans watch the dog competition at TCAC's August 4-H show. Photographer: Jon Roe

every other Wednesday; on alternate Wednesdays will be 'Farm Story Time' for children. Other programs planned will be 'Life In The Fields', bees and photography. The new farm stand opens in July with local produce and products. ([StrongFamilyFarm.org](http://StrongFamilyFarm.org))

**Vernon Greenways Volunteers.** The Volunteers will be maintaining gardens along the Rail-Trail as well as other trail maintenance throughout the growing season. Additional help is always welcome. Later in the season VGV will coordinate Beetlemania, the annual search for the Emerald Ash Borer and Asian Longhorn Beetle. Your help is needed. ([VernonGreenways.org](http://VernonGreenways.org))

# Vernon's Other Trails

Vernon is known for its Greenways and trails. Casual hikers use the Rail-Trail and the trails at Valley Falls Park, but there are many more including the Shenipsit Blue Blaze and Belding Wild Life Management Area trails. In addition organizations of the Vernon Volunteers' Collaborative maintain trails either on their property or for the town.

## Northern Connecticut Land Trust

NCLT (NorthernCTLandTrust.org) owns about 95 acres on 7 properties in Vernon, each with trails. The three properties with the longest trails are:

- Talcott Ravine, a popular trail along the Tankerhoosen River with mill ruins and the ravine.
- Webster and Echo Ridge Preserves above Valley Falls Park leading to views from the cliffs.
- Eckers Pond trails just north of Vernon Center Middle School athletic fields.

## Summer Gardens

Traveling around town you pass many public gardens adding to your enjoyment of Summer. Here are a few that are maintained by volunteers.

### Vernon's Gateway Gardens

Vernon has two gardens welcoming visitors to town - one at 'Vernon Circle' planted in 2002 and the other at Lafayette Square planted in 2006. The Vernon Garden Club (VernonGardenClub.org)



Gateway Garden at Lafayette Square.  
Photographer: Jon Roe

## Tolland County Agricultural Center

These may be the most overlooked and underappreciated trails in town. The Shenipsit Blue Blaze trail passes through TCAC's property. Far in the back, near I-84, Gage's Brook tumbles down the Eastern Highlands towards Walker Reservoir East. In this wooded area you'll find a series of trails, stone walls, experimental gardens and a pond. A hidden gem.

## Vernon Greenways Volunteers & Friends of the Hockanum River Linear Park

VGW (VernonGreenways.org) recreated and maintain eight gardens along the Rail Trail. They also assist the town in the maintenance of the 20 miles of trails for which it has responsibility. The Friends of HRLP assisted in developing and maintaining the Hockanum River parks and trails.

One trail system created is the Dart Hill North and South trails that follow the

provides on-going maintenance for these gardens. Maintaining the project has been a shared endeavor. The plants, which club members weed, deadhead, compost, fertilize and prune, are mostly drought tolerant perennials.

### Rail-Trail Gardens

Where the Rail-Trails cross town roads you'll often see a crew of green shirted volunteers spreading mulch or weeding and watering plants. These are the Vernon Greenways Volunteers (VernonGreenways.org) who maintain eight roadside plantings in town in addition to their trail maintenance chores. Working with the Park and Recreation Department they bring color and beauty to our celebrated Rail-Trails.



Photographer: Jon Roe

Hockanum River from the water treatment plant on Route 74 to the Mansions. A staging point in the middle is Dart Hill South Park. Well used by those living in the area and a nice alternative to the Rail Trail.

This summer explore and enjoy some of Vernon's Other Trails. Links to trail maps can be found at:

[Tankerhoosen.info/Recreation/trails.htm](http://Tankerhoosen.info/Recreation/trails.htm).



Myrtle's Garden at Vernon Historical Society.  
Photographer: Jon Roe

### Myrtle's Garden at VHS

At the Vernon Historical Society (VernonHistoricalSoc.org) is a small garden dedicated to volunteer Myrtle Loftus. It's a lovely summer garden like many others, except for one feature – the 1834 bell that once hung in the Talcottville Mill. In fact the grounds of the historic

Continued on page 12

Grange buildings are an outdoor museum with many objects and plantings relating to our local history.

## Experimental Gardens at TCAC

The Tolland County Agricultural Center (TollandCountyAgriculturalCenter.com) has programs for Master Gardeners and hosts the annual 4-H fair. Not surprisingly many experimental gardens have been

created. Some vary from year to year but you will find a daffodil labyrinth, rain gardens and a children's garden as well as beautiful landscaping and flower beds around the main building. A good place to explore with the family.

If you enjoy gardening consider joining one of these volunteer groups, all members of the Vernon Volunteers' Collaborative (VernonVolunteers.org).

## National Trails Day

On National Trails Day, June 4th, we will have celebrated the completion of the 2,500 square foot mural located on the Route 84 underpass of Rails to Trails. This mural has been a collaborative effort with several community organizations. One of these organizations known as EPOCH has been producing art work for many years now.

EPOCH (pronounced epic) stands for Expressive Personal Original Community art for Humanity. This is an advanced art program for Vernon Center Middle School students within the school. Sherri Nevins an art teacher at VCMS has been working with EPOCH since its creation. Students who express interests in EPOCH can take a drawing and art history test to apply for the program.

Their projects can be found throughout VCMS. Canvases are hung in the building and two murals are being painted in the court yard. Several of their projects extend beyond the school, such as the panels located on the outside of the Motorcycle Museum on West Main Street.

One art piece, a large 3D shoe, was used to collect shoe donations for those in need. Another piece currently being developed will be used to collect donations for the Wounded Warrior Fund.

Jeff Slobodien, the Route 84 lead artist, has been working with the students to develop free hand and stenciling skills needed for painting murals. Jeff is a former EPOCH student himself.



Almost always the projects are thought up by the students themselves. Sherri describes herself as their art assistant. She helps the students with anything they need along the way but it's up to them to complete their artwork.

## Mattress & Box Spring Recycling

A new State law allows Vernon residents to dispose of mattresses and box springs **free of charge** at a facility just down the road. **Recycle-Mattresses**, located at 12 Eastern Park Road in East Hartford (phone 855-732-9228), will accept mattresses and box springs from 8 am to 4 pm from Monday through Friday. This service is funded by disposal fees now charged when you purchase a new mattress.

Recycle-Mattresses will **not** accept the following:

- Items infested with bed bugs
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- Sleeping bags
- Pillows

- Car beds
- Juvenile products such as carriages, baskets, bassinets, dressing tables, strollers, and playpens or their pads
- Infant carriers, lounge pads, or crib bumpers
- Water beds or camping air mattresses
- Fold-out sofa beds
- Futons and furniture

With the exception of item #1, the items listed above are accepted at the Vernon Transfer Station located on Hockanum Boulevard. Permits and punch cards are required and may be obtained at the Tax Office at 8 Park Place.

For more information, please call the Public Works Office at 860-870-3500.

Robert J. Kleinhans, Director of Public Works

# Legal Notice: Collector of Revenue, Town of Vernon

All persons liable to pay property taxes in the Town of Vernon are hereby warned that I have received a rate bill and warrant to collect a town tax of 38.03 mils on real estate and personal property, and 32.00 mils on motor vehicles, on the Grand List of October 1, 2015.

## Motor Vehicle Taxes

Motor Vehicle Taxes must be paid in full on or before August 1. Failure to pay the Motor Vehicle tax by August 1, renders the tax delinquent and subject to interest and will be reported to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles as provided by Law.

## Real Estate And Personal Property

Each Real Estate and Personal Property bill totaling \$100 or less must be paid in full on or before August 1. Taxpayers whose tax bills are over \$100 have the option of paying the full amount due or the First Installment by August 1. Taxpayers

## Heartworm, Fleas and Ticks

Another winter has come, albeit brief, but spring is finally upon us! This means that nasty little fleas, ticks and mosquitoes are poised to attack our beloved pets. These parasites not only carry deadly diseases such as Heartworm, Lyme and Anaplasmosis but create many other health concerns like allergies, hot spots, dermatitis and anemia

Heartworm is transmitted by mosquitoes and causes irreversible and deadly heart and lung disease. Fortunately, it is almost 100% preventable by using a once-a-month preventative. It's important to know that heartworm medication works retro-actively. For example, giving the medication on April 1st eliminates heartworm transmission occurring in March. Therefore, it's crucial to use a preventative well into the winter, although year-round protection is strongly recommended by veterinarians, especially in years like this one.

A common external parasite to find on your pet is fleas. Flea eggs can remain in your pets' environment for up to 8 months. Therefore, it is crucial to clean things in your home where your animal lives like beds, couches and carpeting. If all pets in the home are given a veterinarian recommended preventative, new fleas will be killed before they are able to lay new eggs. Your yard can be treated for fleas and ticks by a licensed exterminator with products that are safe for pets. If your

animal happens to pick up a flea outside, a quality preventative will prevent an infestation in your home.

must pay the second installment any time up to and including February 1, 2017, without penalties. Failure to pay the first installment by August 1, renders the installment delinquent and subject to interest.

Tax bills will be mailed Wednesday June 29th. Failure to receive any bill shall not invalidate the tax or penalties on delinquent taxes. If payment is not made within one month of the due date, the installment will become delinquent and subject to interest at the rate of 1½% per month from the due date of July 1. Minimum interest charge is \$2.

Payments will be accepted at the Tax Office, 8 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut. Office hours are Monday through Wednesday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm; Thursday 8:30 am to 7:00 pm; and Friday 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. Tax payments may also be mailed to: P.O. Box 387, Vernon CT 06066 or paid online at [www.vernon-ct.gov](http://www.vernon-ct.gov) department of Collector of Revenue.

Terry Hjarne, CCMC, Collector of Revenue, Town of Vernon

animal happens to pick up a flea outside, a quality preventative will prevent an infestation in your home.

The most challenging of all the parasites to protect your pet from is ticks. Lyme is extremely prevalent in this area with an estimated 50% of ticks being carriers. Utilizing a quality tick preventative will help protect your pet from tick-borne illnesses. There are many different application options (topical, oral, collar) and frequency (monthly, every 3 months or every 8 months) that work very well. Depending on your pets' lifestyle and exposure, your veterinarian can help you select the product that is best suited for your dog. Work with your veterinarian to ensure that your four-legged pals are vaccinated for Lyme disease and are on a quality heartworm, flea and tick preventative.

Scott Morey DVM, MS  
Fenton River Veterinary Hospital

To download previous issues of *Branford Events*  
visit [www.eventsmagazines.com](http://www.eventsmagazines.com)  
and download the issue you desire!

# Prescription Drug Drop Safe

One of the biggest challenges facing our society is the abuse of prescription medicine. The illegal use of legally prescribed medicines has skyrocketed to an almost epidemic level especially with the adolescent age group. Many families have medicine cabinets and bedroom drawers full of prescription narcotics which were prescribed to handle their illnesses and once they recovered were no longer necessary. These home drug stores have been a favorite target of our children and others for a virtual smorgasbord of narcotics. Studies have found that the improper use of prescription drugs has led to the rise in heroin use as the cheaper heroin is substituted for the more expensive medicine cabinet opiates.

So what can you do with all of those outdated, no longer necessary prescription drugs which fill our cabinets? You can't

flush them down the toilet, that's prohibited by federal law. You cannot bring it back to your favorite pharmacy, they cannot take it back. Leaving it your cabinets invites abuse. Well the answer is as close as the lobby of the Vernon Police Department. During July of 2013, the Vernon Police Department installed a prescription drug drop safe which was donated to the department. Citizens can come into the department, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to safely and anonymously dispose of any unwanted prescription drugs. These drugs are taken in by the department and transported to a nearby trash energy plant where they are safely disposed of. The only restriction, NO SHARPS PLEASE! To date over 375 pounds of unwanted medicines have been removed from our community. So let's make the disposal of unwanted, unneeded prescriptions part of our upcoming spring cleaning.



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**6th Annual KIDSAFE CT**  
 Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse of CT, Inc.

**Car Show**

**WHEN:** 9AM-3PM  
**August 20, 2016**  
 (rain date: August 21, 2016)

**LOCATION:**  
 CT Golfland, 95 Hartford Turnpike  
 Vernon, CT 06066

ALL Proceeds benefit KIDSAFE CT, a charitable non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization.  
 More info: (860)872-1918

**Music**

**RAFFLES**

**Driver Goody Bags**

**FOOD**

**KIDS CORNER**  
 Bounce house  
 Face Painting  
 AND MORE!

Kidsafect.org for printable registration



# Vernon Senior Center

26 Park Place / 860 870-3680

Welcome to the Vernon Senior Center! Join us for a great time participating in one of our on-going games, informative presentations or monthly trips. To view our monthly newsletter and calendar, go to the Town of Vernon's website, [www.vernon-ct.gov](http://www.vernon-ct.gov), click on Departments, then the Senior Center and follow the prompts. The website will always give you an up to date listing of activities.

## Upcoming Events

June 13th we will be celebrating April, May and June birthdays at 2:00 pm. If your birthday falls in one of those months join us to celebrate your special day. Any senior is welcome to come and wish the birthday folks a happy day. Please call to sign up.

Nationally syndicated and award winning cartoonist Rick Stromoski will be at the Senior Center for an afternoon of fun and lots of laughter. Rick will demonstrate his drawing techniques and show samples of his work along with describing the process of humor writing. The Soup to Nutz program will be on Wednesday, June 15th at 1:00 pm. This event is free. Please call to sign up.

Each month the Visiting Nurses provide Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar screening. Appointments are not necessary. The nurses are available from 9:00 – 10:00 am. These screenings are available on the second Wednesday of each month.

The Vernon Senior Center provides transportation to medical or dental appointments out of town. This service is available for Vernon residents age 60 and older. Rides are available Monday – Friday between 9:00 am and 1:30 pm. You must be ambulatory. Please call Sela for more information.

Every other month we provide our Newcomers with a tour and overview of our Senior Center programs and activities. We would love to have any senior age 60 and up join us and learn about our Center.

## Trips

Thursday, July 14th - Long Island Sound – Lights and Sights Cruise – We will be taking a two hour narrated tour on a Sea Jet Catamaran to view 8 lighthouses, a fort, a castle and much more. Dinner will be at the Go Fish restaurant. We will be ending the day with some free time at the Mystic Village. Cost is \$95 per person.

Vernon seniors will be attending a tribute to the Grand Old Opry at the Aqua Turf on Tuesday, August 16th. Dave Colucci



Senior Photo Day with RHS AP Photography Class. Photo by Dennis Timberman.

will pay tribute to the music, songs and singers of country's biggest stage. There will be a "family style" all you can eat luncheon. Cost \$75.

Please call the Center to register for any of these programs. We are open Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. We are available to answer any questions you may have about our Center and our many activities during those times. We look forward to meeting you!

## ★ ★ ENJOY THE VERNON ★ ★ FIREWORKS DISPLAY!

**Thanks to our generous sponsors!**

**MAJOR SPONSORS**  
Price Chopper • United Bank Foundation

**FUN ZONE SPONSOR**  
Superior Energy

**STARS & STRIPES**  
Hidden Dragon Karate • McDonald's • Skips Wastewater Services  
SBM Charitable Foundation • Superior Energy • Events Magazine  
Rockville Community Alliance • Town Of Vernon

<b>RED LEVEL</b> Creative Exteriors LLC CNC Software, Inc. Dunkin' Donuts Vernon Poolman	<b>BLUE LEVEL</b> Advanced Kitchens Burger King Suburban Subaru Bundy Motors Inc. Polish National TKB Club Ellen L Marmer, MD Dowding, Moriarty & Dimock, Inc. Vernon Family Medicine
<b>WHITE LEVEL</b> Vivenzio & Associates Insurance, Inc. Naek Construction USI Insurance St. Bernard Church Homestead Plumbing, Heating, Cooling, Energy & Water Lifeforce Chiropractic LLC Santini Villa Apts & Grand Lofts	<b>FIRECRACKER</b> Leighton Katz & Drapeau The Garden Barn Nursery

# July In The Sky

Wednesday July 6th. Rain Date July 7th. This year's event is sponsored by **United Bank Foundation & Price Chopper.**

## Henry Park Schedule of Events

6:00	Gates open
6:00-9:30	Food served at "Food Court"
6:15 -9:15	Superior Energy's 'Fun Zone' on McCoy baseball field
6:15-9:15	Music by 102.9 The Whale
6:30-9:15	Eastview Drive Band
8:30	National Anthem
9:40	Fireworks

## "July in the Sky" at Henry Park

Come to Henry Park and enjoy July in the Sky Fireworks from the closest viewing point in Vernon. Our firework display is one of the biggest, most spectacular displays in the state.

The fireworks will be shot off at Fox Hill Tower in Henry Park on Wednesday, July 6th at approximately 9:40 pm. The rain date is scheduled for Thursday, July 7th. Not only will the show be spectacular, there is some great entertainment scheduled as well.

**Superior Energy "Fun Zone" Come join the fun-this is where the action will be.** Superior Energy, LLC is sponsoring the "Fun Zone", located on McCoy field. All kinds of food and drinks will be served, glow toys of all kinds will be sold. The Whale 102.9 will provide music.

**This year's event sponsors are: United Bank Foundation and Price Chopper.** Their community involvement is greatly appreciated by all. Each and every year many businesses donate money or in kind services to help with the operation and funding of this event. There are different levels of sponsorship that are available to business owners, if you are interested in the future, please contact the Parks and Recreation office at 860-870-3520.

The Vernon Parks and Recreation Department does much of the administrative work and the day of responsibilities for this event, but it is a great team effort by many of the Town of Vernon Departments.

**The Police Department** takes care of the safety aspect with officers patrolling Downtown Rockville and Henry Park. Getting cars in and out of the viewing areas, crowd control and traffic control is no easy task.

**The Fire Department** strategically places their trucks and staff to secure the safety of all people and their homes. The Fire Marshall is responsible for the launching area and the firework discharging.

**The Public Works Department** is responsible for road blocks, signage and clean up.

**McDonald's** sponsors the barbecue for the sponsors and the people helping with the fireworks.

**Hidden Dragon** takes complete control of all vehicular traffic in Henry Park.

**The Rockville Community Alliance** coordinates the activities for Downtown Rockville.

**The Parks and Recreation Department** is responsible for the launch area, the safety zones, parking, entertainment, publicity, fund-raising, food and many, many other tasks.

The citizens of Vernon should be very proud of the efforts of each and every department.

The day of the fireworks, Wednesday July 6th, Henry Park will close at 4:00 pm, the gates open at 6:00 pm. Cars can park inside of Henry Park at a cost of \$5 per car. People walking to the park are asked for a \$1 donation, all the funds collected goes towards the fireworks.

## New And Improved "Fun Zone"

To eliminate the long lines, Superior Energy has reached out to get another item or two. The "Fun Zone" which is held up at Henry Park, is guaranteed to generate fun and excitement for kids of all ages. The "Fun Zone" will be held on the Frank J. McCoy baseball field. The activities will start at 6:15 and will run until 9:15. Bracelets will be sold for \$10 which will give people access to all activities. Bracelets will be sold at the field.

## Activities

**Hamster Ball** rolls of fun.

**Rock Wall** will add to the excitement.

**Monkey Motion Jumper:** Soar up to 20 feet in the air. The "front to back" additional movement creates a new dimension of fun.

**Laser Tag:** Unbelievable, awesome fun!! Shoot and hide behind inflatable bunkers. Blasters are equipped with rubber tips and foam covered barrels for added safety.

**Big Daddy's Racing:** Come enjoy racing cars around a 30x30 track. Computer scoring will determine the winner.

**Obstacle Course:** This course is over 65 feet long with plenty of thrills and spills through the 7 element course, then up and over the rock climb and slide.

**2 Bounce Houses:** For the younger children, after a few minutes of bouncing they zip down the slide.



**Continued on page 17**

**Music!**

**Face Painting:** Laurie Hessler's Painted Faces will be doing her thing throughout the night. There will be a \$5 charge.

**Food and Ice Cream:** Hot dogs, chicken fingers, French fries and ice cream will be available.



**Hidden Dragon Karate Controls Parking**

Hidden Dragon Karate, located at 458 Talcottville Road. Vernon has been providing more than 30 Instructors, adult students and parent volunteer's to direct traffic and safety control for the July in the Sky Fireworks celebration for the past ten years.

**McDonald's Sponsors Barbeque**

For the 9th consecutive year McDonald's will be sponsoring the barbecue for the sponsors and the individuals who help with the fireworks. McDonald's puts on a first class barbecue, which includes burgers, chicken, salad, dessert and drinks. This barbecue takes place at the Hartmann Pavilion in Henry Park.

**Things to Know:**

**ARRIVE EARLY** at Henry Park to take advantage of the parking (\$5 per car) available and to select a preferred seating location, and bring blankets and chairs to assure comfortable seating for an evening of fun and entertainment!

When parking you **CANNOT LEAVE** until the show is over which is approximately 10 pm. Cars will be boxed in.

**NO PETS!** Pets will not be allowed into the Parks.

Henry Park will close at 4:00 for all activities. Tower Road will be closed at 10 am, there will be no foot traffic or vehicles allowed.

**NO BICYCLES, NO SKATEBOARDS** allowed in the park.

**NO FIREWORKS, NO SPARKLERS** allowed.

**NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES** allowed in the Park.

**Limited Traffic Rules Beginning at 6:00 pm**

**Road Closures**

- Henry Park
- Spruce Street
- Tower Road after 10 am
- Henry Park portions of Thomas Street

There will be no foot traffic or vehicles allowed on Tower Road beginning at 10:00 am (residents who live on these streets should plan accordingly, but will be allowed vehicular access)

**No Parking**

- Vernon Avenue South Street
- McLean Street

**One Side Parking**

- High Street Kevin Drive
- Howard Street Hale Street Extension
- Fox Hill Drive Earl Street
- Reed Street Crown Street

**Cars parked in Henry Park will exit onto South Street going west. Cars parked on Fox Hill Drive, Reed Street, Hale Street Extension, Crown Street and White Street will exit onto South.**

**July In The Sky at Downtown Rockville**

The Rockville Community Alliance partners with the Town of Vernon Parks and Recreation Department to present all the pre-fireworks fun and activities.

Downtown Rockville will once again be a prime viewing area to observe the July in the Sky fireworks exhibit on July 1st. Considering the large number of people that will attend the July in the Sky Fireworks in Downtown Rockville and the special activities that will precede the fireworks, it is suggested that spectators arrive early to take advantage of the free parking available throughout the Downtown area and to select a preferable seating location. Spectators should bring picnic blankets and chairs to be comfortable for a long evening of fun.

**Schedule of Events**

- 6:00 pm Gates open
- 6:00 - 9:00 pm Giant Inflatables, Carnival-type games, face painting
- 6:00 - 9:00 pm Food Court
- 6:00 - 9:00 pm Musical entertainment
- 6:45 pm Karate and Dance demonstration
- 7:15 - 7:30 pm Judging of Parade participants
- 7:30 pm National Anthem
- 7:35 - 8:05 pm Push, Pedal, Pull Patriotic Parade and winners announced
- 8:05 pm Miss Greater Rockville and Miss Greater Rockville's Outstanding Teen
- 9:40 pm Fireworks

Miss Greater Rockville and Miss Greater Rockville's Outstanding Teen, along with designated RCA members will circulate to collect donations to go towards the purchase of next year's fireworks. Stickers will be given to those who donate. Look for the bright pink shirts that say "Rockville Rocket Fund."

**Continued on page 18**

## Push, Pull, Pedal Patriotic Parade

Known as the “PPPPP”, this colorful parade will once again be part of the Downtown Rockville celebration of July in the Sky. People of all ages are invited to join in on bikes, trikes, wagons or skateboards. Decorate your vehicles in red, white and blue. Don't forget to decorate yourself in red, white and blue too. Decorating and line up start at 6:15 pm in front of the former Bank of America. Judging is at 7:15 pm and the parade will start at 7:35 pm.

## Downtown Rockville Parking Restrictions:

St. Bernard's Terrace, Park Street and Park Place will be closed to traffic. Main Street will be closed at 6 pm.

**No Parking zones:** Court Street, east side only between East Main Street and Brooklyn Street. Brooklyn Street, north side between entrances to Rockville Professional Center and Vernon Avenue. West Main Street, between Vernon and Union Street.

**AFTER THE FIREWORKS THERE WILL BE ALTERNATE TRAFFIC FLOW AROUND HENRY PARK AND DOWNTOWN ROCKVILLE; ROUTES WILL BE WELL POSTED.**

## Things To Know

**ARRIVE EARLY** to select a preferred seating location, and bring blankets and chairs to assure comfortable seating for an evening of fun and entertainment!

**NO PETS!** Pets will not be allowed into the Parks.

**NO BICYCLES, NO SKATEBOARDS** allowed in the park.

**NO FIREWORKS, NO SPARKLERS** allowed.

**NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES** allowed in the Park.

## Northeast School

Many individuals take advantage of this site. This is another great viewing area.

Cars will be charged \$5 and walk-in \$1.00, remember all proceeds goes towards next year's event. There will be ice cream, kettle corn and other various foods available.



## Vernon Youth Services Bureau

Welcome to the Vernon Youth Services Bureau. The YSB is a Town Of Vernon department that provides prevention and intervention programs, coordinates services to youth and refers youth and families to needed services. The YSB has been providing these services for well over 35 years.

**Mission Statement:** The Vernon Youth Services Bureau is a Town of Vernon Department dedicated to providing:

- Program Coordination
- Information and Referral
- Prevention Services
- Early Intervention Services
- Resource Development
- Community Involvement
- Youth Advocacy

You can find a copy of our brochure at: [www.vernon-ct.gov/youthservices](http://www.vernon-ct.gov/youthservices).

**Want to Reach Every Home & Business in Town?**

**Call Tom Fortin at 860-299-4568**

In this issue, I'll highlight some of our 2016 summer programs:

- **Summer Youth Employment:** the YSB partners with Capital Workforce Partners to offer jobs for income eligible youth. Youth must be 16 years of age and must be enrolled in school up to 12th grade. Youth hired for the summer employment program work for 20 hours/week for six weeks between July and August. For more information, contact Kim McTighe, Prevention Program Specialist at: [Kimberly.mctighe@vernonct.org](mailto:Kimberly.mctighe@vernonct.org).
- **The Summer Fun Program** offers fun programs for 20 youths in grades 1-5 and runs for six-weeks from July-August. Our focus this summer is nutrition, exercise, reading and plenty of time for play. There are two 3-week sessions, \$80/session/youth. For more information contact: Oz Ramos, Youth Counselor: [oramos@vernon-ct.gov](mailto:oramos@vernon-ct.gov).
- **The YSB provides free lunches** to any youth 18 years and younger at three lunch sites. Lunches are served from 11:45 am-12:30 pm. This is a federally funded program and our partners are: State Department of Education, Vernon Parks and Recreation, Park West Apartments and Vernon Public Schools. For more information contact: Michelle Hill at [mhill@vernon-ct.gov](mailto:mhill@vernon-ct.gov).
- For information about any of our programs, call 860-870-3555.

# Zika Virus: The Newest Emerging Infectious Disease

The newest emerging infectious disease to reach the United States is the Zika virus. Zika virus disease is a disease caused by the Zika virus, which is spread to people primarily through the bite of an infected *Aedes* species mosquito. It was first discovered in Uganda in 1947. In 1952, the first human cases of Zika were detected and since then, outbreaks of Zika have been reported in tropical Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Islands. In May 2015, the World Health Organization reported the first local transmission of Zika virus in the Western Hemisphere. As of April 8, 2016, local transmission has been identified in at least 34 countries or territories in the Americas, including Puerto Rico.

Zika virus is transmitted primarily by *Aedes aegypti*, the mosquitoes that are aggressive daytime biters. They can also bite at night and can be found in buildings. They become infected when they bite a person already infected with the virus and can then transmit the virus when they bite another person.

*Aedes aegypti* is not found in Connecticut but a related species, *Aedes albopictus*, has been identified in the southwestern area of the state and it is also considered capable of transmission of the Zika virus.

Those infected with Zika infections have relatively mild illnesses that are rarely fatal. Symptoms include fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). Symptoms can last for several days to a week after being bitten by an infected mosquito. Many people may not realize they have been infected. An increase in birth defects among infants born to women infected during pregnancy is associated with the virus, as well as other severe fatal brain defects.

## Is Connecticut Prepared for the Zika virus?

The State of Connecticut has been preparing for the arrival of the Zika virus for some time. Preparations are ongoing and state departments are working together to prevent the spread in our state.

- The Department of Public Health (DPH) is the lead agency for the State's response to Zika virus. DPH is responsible for conducting surveillance for human cases of Zika virus associated illnesses and coordinating dissemination of information. Testing for Connecticut residents is conducted at the DPH Laboratory or at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Case investigations are conducted by DPH epidemiologists.
- The North Central District Health Department, and other local health departments, are working collaboratively with DPH to disseminate information to the general public. They are also monitoring calls from the general public regarding

health complaints and unusual clustering of complaints.

- The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station maintains a network of 91 fixed mosquito-trapping stations located in 72 municipalities' throughout the state. These traps provide information that include type of mosquito and abundance in the community, seasonal and spatial distribution of mosquito vectors, and prevalence of virus infected mosquitoes.
- The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) provides technical advice regarding mosquito control to municipalities.

## How to Prevent Mosquito Bites and the Transmission of Zika Virus

There is no vaccine for the Zika virus. The best prevention is to avoid mosquito bites and to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. Mosquitoes do not need a lot of water to breed. Follow the tips below to ensure a safe and healthy summer:

- Wear long sleeved shirts and long pants, when appropriate. Loose fitting, light colors work best.
- Stay in places with air conditioning or that use window and door screens to keep mosquitoes outside.
- Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered insect repellents. When used as directed, EPA registered insect repellents are proven safe and effective, even for pregnant and breast feeding women. Always follow the product label instructions. Do not use repellent on babies younger than 2 months of age.
- Cover arms and legs of children playing near standing water.
- Cover playpens or carriages with mosquito netting.
- Remove objects that can hold standing water such as tin cans, tires, buckets, or bottles.
- Fix holes in screens and attach properly to windows.

## About NCDHD

The North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) serves the communities of Enfield, East Windsor, Ellington, Stafford, Suffield, Vernon, Windham, and Windsor Locks. NCDHD is a full-time public health department with a full-time staff funded by its member towns and an annual per capita grant from the Connecticut State Department of Public Health. NCDHD provides professional public health services in the areas of health education and disease prevention, environmental health and emergency preparedness. The mission of NCDHD is to prevent disease, injury, and disability by promoting and protecting the health and well-being of the public and our environment.

For more information about NCDHD visit [www.ncdhd.org](http://www.ncdhd.org).

# Vernon Parks & Recreation Department

[www.VernonRec.org](http://www.VernonRec.org) is the Parks and Recreation website & registration site. Be sure to visit the site, create a household account and register for a program right there.

**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-4:30 pm. **Location:** 120 South Street, Vernon, CT 06066. **General Phone Number:** 860-870-3520.

**Registration And General Information.** Consider Yourself Registered – if you do not hear from us. You will be notified if a change occurs or if the program is filled. You are automatically put on the waiting list and your payment returned if the class is filled at the time your registration is received. Assume classes will begin on the dates listed. If you would like a receipt, please enclose a SASE with your registration. All programs are open for registration unless otherwise noted in the program description. You may register on-line at [www.vernonrec.org](http://www.vernonrec.org).

**Insurance.** All persons participating in Recreation programs should carry their own personal health insurance. The Town of Vernon is not responsible for personal injuries. Participants in all Department sponsored programs participate at their own risk. Only those enrolled in the program may attend.

**ADA.** The Town of Vernon does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability in provision of programs and services. We are committed to assuring equal access to programs, activities, and services to all individuals. If you or a family member needs assistance, please let us know when you register.

**Classes.** We reserve the right to limit class size and to cancel classes failing to meet minimum requirements. Vernon residents are given preference for all programs during the 1st week of registration.

**Payment.** Registration is not considered valid until the program fee is paid. We accept cash, check, MasterCard, Visa or Discover.

**Refunds** are given only prior to the start of classes or if we cancel the program. Once an activity has started no refunds will be granted except in the case of injury, illness, or relocation. Refunds will then be given on a pro-rated basis and are under the discretion of the Parks and Recreation Director. Please note that there is a \$5.00 charge for all refunds and transfers.

**Inclement Weather.** In the case of inclement weather, the Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to cancel programs for the day. All decisions on programs will be made by 4:00 pm unless your program starts earlier. A decision will be made by 9:00 am for weekend and morning programs. Please contact the Recreation Office at 860-870-3520. The

Department will attempt to post any program cancellation information on 1080AM and WFSB Channel 3.

**Program Photos.** We invite everyone to browse our photo collection of recent activities and programs. Our staff photographer, Andre Garant, strives to cover as many of our events as possible. All photos are available for sale to parents at low prices. For further details, please visit our photo site at [www.flickr.com/photos/vernonpr](http://www.flickr.com/photos/vernonpr)

## Summer Day Camp

All Registrations are due by 12 pm on the Friday before a session begins, IF space is available. Payment is due in full. To see if you are eligible for Financial Assistance, you may call the Vernon Social Services Department at 860-870-3661 to schedule an appointment.

No refunds or transfers are made once a camp session has started. There is a \$5 charge for any cancellations or transfers you make between programs (note that each camp session is a different program).

### Sessions (Newhoca, 375, Valley Falls, Henry Park, Kiddie Camp)

Session 1: June 20-June 24

Session 5: July 18-July 22

Session 2: June 27-July 1

Session 6: July 25-July 29

Session 3: July 5-July 8  
(no camp 7/4)

Session 7: August 1-August 5

Session 4: July 11-July 15

Session 8: August 8-August 12

**Post Camp:** August 15-19

### Fees

**Center 375 and Valley Falls Camp:** Residents: \$80, Non-Residents: \$85.

**Henry Park Camp:** Residents: \$65, Non-Residents: \$70

**Camp Newhoca:** Residents: \$95, Non-Residents: \$100

**Kiddie Camp:** Residents: \$80, Non-Residents: \$85

**Extended AM:** Residents: \$20, Non-Residents: \$25

**Extended PM:** Residents: \$30, Non-Residents: \$35

**Post Camp:** Residents: \$110, Non-Residents: \$115

**Late Fee:** Late fees apply to those who are not picked up on-time. Fee is \$5 for the first 15 minutes, \$1 per minute thereafter.

**Kiddie Camp.** Kiddie Camp is held at Center 375 from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm and is for children ages 4-5 years old. Campers meet in the Fitness Room of Center 375 each day. This location also features playing fields, playground and a kiddie pool only. Children do activities that focus on interaction with peers, have theme weeks, physical fitness, educational learning activities, arts and crafts, story time, movies and much more. All Kiddie Campers WILL have a quiet time after lunch. Limit is 30 campers. Campers must be fully potty trained. Campers attending this camp ARE eligible to register for the Center 375 Extended Day

**Continued on page 21**

program. No Bus transportation is provided. Photo ID is required to sign out your child.

**Center 375 Camp.** This camp is held at the Center 375 from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm and is for children ages 6-12 years old. This location features a swimming pool, softball field for games, basketball court, playground, picnic area and an air conditioned indoor facility. Campers enjoy fun theme days, physical fitness, arts and crafts, open swim and much more! Limit is 70 campers. Campers attending this camp ARE eligible to register for the Center 375 Extended Day program. No Bus transportation is provided. Photo ID is required to sign out your child.

**Valley Falls Nature Camp.** This camp is held at Valley Falls Park from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm and is for children ages 6-12 years old. Campers meet at the Valley Falls Pavilion in the morning and are picked up there in the afternoon. In the event of inclement weather, campers are to go to the Valley Falls Barn. This camp features Nature with special explorations in the pond, learning about fishing, excursions on hiking trails, special guest presenters and much more! Along with fun nature explorations, campers will also enjoy fun camp games, arts & crafts, swim time, basketball court and much more! Limit is 40. Campers attending this camp ARE eligible to register for the Valley Falls Extended Day program. No Bus transportation is provided. Photo ID is required to sign out your child.

**Henry Park Camp.** This camp is held at Henry Park from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm and is for children ages 6-15 years old. All Campers meet at the Pavilion in the morning and are picked up there in the afternoon. This location features a swimming pool, multiple baseball fields for games, basketball courts and a playground with a spray pool. A Free lunch program is offered at this site. Campers age 12-15 will have the opportunity to go on 2 field trips for additional fee each week, trip information will come out at the start of camp. In the event of inclement weather, campers will be bussed to one of the town's elementary schools. Limit is 70 campers. Campers are NOT eligible for the extended day program. No Bus transportation is provided. Photo ID is required to sign out your child.



**Camp Newhoca.** This camp is located at Newhoca Park which is on Middle Bolton Lake and goes from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. It is for campers ages 6-13 years old. This camp features swimming in the lake, canoes & paddle boats, basketball courts, hiking, field games, an arts & crafts instructor, exciting theme days and much more! This camp also has indoor facilities featuring an Arts and Crafts cabin, Game Room (with

Foosball tables, Air Hockey, board games, etc), Rec Hall and an office. During sessions 3, 5 and 7, campers ages 10-13 are eligible to sign up for a sleepover at Camp Newhoca. Camp Newhoca is known for their exciting themes. A Nature Program is part of the camp too. Camp Newhoca will definitely provide fun times, good friends and happy memories! Limit 110 campers. Photo ID is required to sign out your child.



Bus Transportation is ONLY provided from Valley Falls: Drop-Off 8:45 am. Pick Up 3:45 pm

**Extended Day.** This is an extension to the summer camp day that allows you to drop off your child as early as 7:30 am and stay as late as 6:00 pm in the evening. **Campers needing Extended Day for Camp Newhoca and Valley Falls will be located at Valley Falls Park (in the event of inclement weather it is held at the Valley Falls Barn).** Camp Newhoca campers will be bussed to Newhoca Park. **Campers needing Extended Day for Center 375 and Kiddie Camp will be located at Center 375. Please note, this program is NOT available for Henry Park campers as transportation is NOT provided to site.** Photo ID is required to sign out your child.

**Post Camp.** This program allows you to keep a normal schedule at the end of the summer. It is located at Center 375 and is for children ages 5-12 years old. A wide variety of camp activities are offered as well as swimming. Camp runs from 7:30 am - 6:00 pm. Photo ID is required to sign out your child.

## Summer Programs

**Dance Camp.** This camp is for children ages 7-12 yrs. old. Fun-filled, high energy camp with staff from Beyond Dance. The participants will enjoy dancing numerous styles to modern music, do Zumba, create cool crafts, sing and more! In the afternoon, participants will go to Newhoca beach to swim. The last day of the session will include a show for family and friends to see. Wear appropriate clothes and shoes to comfortably move around and dance in. The camp will be held at Newhoca Lodge. Participants will be bussed to Newhoca from Valley Falls Park parking lot. Please be ON TIME for bus pick up/drop off. Wear appropriate clothes and shoes to comfortably move around and dance in, bring a bathing suit, towel, lunch (no refrigerator available), snacks and plenty of water. Campers ARE eligible to register for Extended Day Camp at Valley Falls. Newhoca Lodge. Session 1: July 11-15. Session 2: July 25-29. Campers will be bussed from Valley Falls Park. Bus Pick up is 8:45 am. Bus Drop off is 3:45 pm. Fee: \$120/session.

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## VERNON TOWN DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY

Administration	860-870-3670
Assessor	860-870-3625
Animal Control	860-870-3558
Building Department	860-870-3633
Cemetery Office	860-875-3158
Collector of Revenue	860-870-3660
Data Processing	860-870-3646
Economic Development	860-870-3637
Emergency Services	860-871-3142
Employment Opportunities	860-870-3605
Engineering	860-870-3664
Finance	860-870-3690
Fire Department	860-871-7468
Fire Marshal	860-870-3652
Health Department	860-872-1501
Library	860-875-5892
Parks and Recreation	860-870-3520
Planning and Development	860-870-3640
Police Department	860-872-9126
Public Works	860-870-3500
Senior Center	860-870-3680
Sewer Treatment Plant	860-870-3545
Social Services	860-870-3661
Town Clerk	860-870-3662
Water Pollution Control	860-870-3699
Youth Services Bureau	860-870-3555
Zoning Administration	860-870-3636

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**Kiddie Dance Camp.** This camp is for children ages 4-6 years old. Campers will enjoy a fun-filled morning to keep their feet moving to the beat. Numerous dance styles will be taught, including tap, jazz and hip hop. Tap shoes are recommended, but not required. Dancers of all abilities are welcome. Camp will be directed by Jessica Foster and other Beyond Dance staff.

Monday through Friday, August 15-19, 8:30-11:30 am. Center 375 Dance Room. Fee: \$75.

**Play Well Pre-Engineering Camp.** This camp is open to children ages 5-6 years old. Create, Play, and Learn. Build a town, city, or star base with houses, buildings, pyramids, bridges, tunnels, towers, and more. Build motorized cars, trains, buses, and trucks; race them; crash them; repair them. Explore the many possibilities of LEGO® building systems while learning useful construction techniques. Monday through Friday, August 15-19 from 9 am to 12 pm. Camp Newhoca. Residents: \$135, Non-Residents: \$140.

**Play Well Fundamentals.** This exciting program is for children ages 7-10 years old. Design and build motorized machines, catapults, pyramids, demolition derby cars, truss and suspension bridges, buildings, and other constructions. Explore concepts in physics, mechanical engineering, structural engineering, and architecture while playing with your favorite creations. This is a hands-on and minds-on class suitable for LEGO® building system novices to “maniacs.” Monday through Friday, August 15-19 from 1-4 pm. Camp Newhoca. Residents: \$135, Non-Residents: \$140.

### Dance Schedule

All classes are held at Center 375. Instructor Jessica and other Beyond Dance staff will be teaching the classes. Each session has 4 classes.

**Dance Class Fee Structure Per Participant:** \$35 for 1 session of 1 class style, \$30 for each additional class style during the same session (discount not applicable to on-line registrants). \$10 Drop in for 1 time classes during session. (No sibling discounts).

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY (attend both days):

**Session 1:** June 27, 29, July 11, 13. **Session 2:** July 25, 27, August 2, 4.

- Preschool Combo (age 3-4): 4:45-5:30 pm
- Tap Beginner/Adv. Beginner (age 8+): 5:30-6:15 pm
- Dance Sampler-tap, jazz, ballet, hip hop (age 5-7): 5:30-6:15 pm
- Tap Intermediate/Advanced (age 8+): 6:15-7 pm
- Pom/Jazz (age 8+): 6:15-7 pm

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS (attend both days):

**Session 1:** June 28, 30, July 12, 14. **Session 2:** July 26, 28, August 3, 5.

- Jazz/Hip Hop (ages 4-7): 4:45-5:30 pm
- Jazz/Lyrical (age 8-12): 5:30-6:15 pm
- Hip Hop (age 8-12): 5:30-6:15 pm
- Lyrical/Contemporary (ages 13+): 8-9 pm

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## Aquatics

**Swim Lessons.** Each session meets for eight classes Monday through Thursday (Fridays used for make-ups). Baby & Me and Introduction classes last for 30 minutes, Levels 1-5/6 classes last for 45 minutes. Sessions are limited to eight participants per class. Sessions which do not reach the minimum participation will be cancelled. Refunds/credits are not provide for missed classes. If a class is cancelled by VPR and cannot be made up, a credit will be placed on your account. FEE: \$45 Resident, \$55 Non-Resident.

### Session Dates

Session 1: 6/20 - 7/1

Session 2: 7/4 - 7/15

Session 3: 7/18 - 7/29

Session 4: 8/1 - 8/12

### Community Pool (375 Hartford Turnpike)

Baby & Me: 11:45 am, 5:00 pm

Introduction: 10:45 am, 6:00 pm

Level 1: 11:45 am, 5:00 pm

Level 2: 10:45 am, 6:00 pm

### Horowitz Pool (120 South Street)

Level 2: 10 am

Level 3: 11:45 am, 5:00 pm

Level 4: 10:45 am, 5:00 pm

Level 5/6: 11:45 am, 5:00 pm

**Age Restrictions.** Age of the participant on the first day of the session.

Baby and Me: 1.5-3 years old

Introduction: 3-4 years old

Levels 1-5/6: 5-14 years old.

### Swim Lesson Level Description

**Swim: Baby & Me 1 - 5-3 years.** Introduce your child to the water in this unstructured program. Staff is available to offer tips using activities, toys and songs. Participate with your baby in your grasp. One parent per child required. Swim diapers required.

**Swim: Intro to Level 1 - 3-4 years.** This class is for your beginning swimmer to prepare for Level 1. Basic introduction to breath control, basic floating and balance in the water, changing directions and rolling over, and using a personal flotation device (PFD) are covered. Parent participation is optional.

**Swim: Level 1 - 5-14 years old.** Level 1 Swim - Swimmers learn water safety rules, safe water entry and exits, breath control, basic floating and balance in the water, changing directions and rolling over, and using a personal flotation device (PFD). Parent not required, goggles are suggested.

**Swim: Level 2 - 5-14 years old.** Level 2 Swim - Swimmers learn how to float and balance in the front, back and side positions, underwater movement and retrieval skills, water safety, and movement. Goggles are suggested.

**Swim: Level 3 - 5-14 years old.** Level 3 Swim - Swimmers learn kicks used in all swim strokes, pulls used in side stroke and elementary back stroke, treading, rules for safe diving, HELP and Huddle positions with PFD, reaching assists. Goggles are suggested.

**Swim: Level 4 - 5-14 years old.** Level 4 Swim - Swimmers learn underwater swimming, surface diving, pulls for competitive strokes, whole-stroke swimming of all strokes, and safe diving rules. Goggles are suggested.

**Swim: Level 5/6 - 5-14 years old.** Level 5/6 Combo Swim - Advanced Swimmers refine the Breast and Side Strokes and begin short lap swimming using the front and back crawl, flip turns, and surface dives and begin the Butterfly Stroke. Participants learn the skills needed to be on a competitive swim team. Goggles are suggested.

**Guard Start.** This program is designed to give advanced swimmers the foundation of lifeguarding. Participants will learn the skills required to be a lifeguard through hands on practice. Classes will focus on fitness, professionalism, emergency response and accident prevention. Participants must be able to swim the length of the pool continuously, tread water for one minute and swim submerged for 10 feet. This **IS NOT** a Lifeguard, CPR or First Aid Certification Course.

Mondays through Thursdays. Fridays will be used for makeups. 11-15 years old, 9:00 am – 10:00 am. Horowitz Pool. \$45 resident, \$55 non-resident. Session Dates: Session 1: 7/4-7/15. Session 2: 8/1-8/12.

**Gators Swim Team.** Swimmers 18 years old and younger, Join the Gators Swim Team! Make new friends and improve your technique while having fun under the sun. All swimmers should be proficient in one or more strokes and able to swim the length of the pool.



The season runs from late June through early August. Practices will be weekday evenings Monday-Thursday at Horowitz Pool in Henry Park, with a weekly competition in the Central CT Swim League.

All team members will receive an individual Vernon Aquatics pool pass for the 2016 season, a Gators swim cap and T-shirt! Monday through Thursday mornings, swimmers may attend optional stroke clinics to improve their techniques.

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Due to league rules, we may only accept non-residents from Tolland, Bolton, Ellington and Manchester.

**Pool Parties.** Make a big splash at your next party.

Community Pool and Horowitz Pool are now available for pool parties. Pool parties are available on Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 am to Noon or 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The cost of the pool party is \$200. For further information, please call 860-870-3520.

## Summer Carnival

The 7th annual Vernon Summer Days Carnival will be held July 20-23 at the former Connecticut Golf Land in Vernon. Hours are Wednesday through Friday 6-10 pm, and Saturday 5-10 pm. All rides are unlimited with the purchase of a nightly wrist band. Individual ride tickets are also available. Along with the rides there are games and a food court. The sponsors are the Rockville Exchange Club, the Maple Grove Club and The Vernon Parks and Recreation. The Carnival benefits charitable programs such as Kids Safe and the Town of Vernon summer camperships. Parking and admission to the carnival are free. For further information or questions, or to volunteer, call Steve Wakefield, event Chairman, at 860-573-6544, or Steve Krajewski, Vernon Parks and Recreation at 860-870-3520.

## Superior Energy Presents Mayor Daniel Champagne Concert Series

The Town of Vernon's Parks and Recreation Department is bringing back the outdoor concert series that so many people enjoyed in years past. The schedule will consist of 4 concerts. The concerts will take place at Henry Park. **Thursday July 28**, 102nd Army Band, CT National Guard, 7:00 pm. **Thursday August 4**, Simply Swing (sponsored by Farmington Bank), 7:00 pm.

**Thursday August 11**, Radio Ranch Band, Country Western (sponsored by Superior Energy) 7:00 pm. **Thursday August 18**, Eastview Drive, (sponsored by Superior Energy) 7:00 pm.

## Adult Programs

**Adult Fall Softball.** The adult fall softball program will start after Labor Day. Men's teams and coed teams will play on set nights during the season at Henry Park and Community Field. The entrance fee is \$570 and the deadline is August 12.

**Community Gardens.** Located at Vernon Center Middle School, individuals can rent a 25x25 garden plot for their personal gardening needs. Each plot cost \$20 (\$15 for seniors) and is ready for planting now. All gardeners may register now.

**Zumba®.** Are you ready to party yourself into shape? That's exactly what the Zumba® program is all about. It's an exhilarating, effective, easy-to-follow, Latin-inspired, calorie-burning dance fitness-party that's moving millions of people

toward joy and health. The exercises include music with fast and slow rhythms, as well as resistance training. Mondays, 7-8 pm, Center 375 Gym, Vernon Teen Center Dance Room. Drop In rate: \$6.00/class.

**Cize.** The hottest new workout is here and it is for everyone! It's so much fun, you won't even realize you are exercising! In each routine you will learn moves step-by-step and builds them into a full dance routine. Your cardio will skyrocket if you actually really work it out and push yourself. With dancing you can move at the pace you are comfortable with. So if you go for it, you'll lose weight and get toned. While you are mastering the dance moves, you'll also be burning fat and calories. Tuesdays, 7-8 pm, Vernon Teen Center Dance Room. Drop In rate: \$6.00/class.

**50/50 Zumba & Zumba® Toning.** Cardio fusion incorporates cutting edge research and fitness techniques to burn maximum calories, build lean muscles, and increase stamina. Full body workout, strengthens core, burns and tones. Wednesdays, 7-8 pm, Center 375 Gym. Drop in rate: \$6.00/class.

## Family Events & Bus Trips

### 2016-2017 After School Program

**R.E.K. – Recreation and Education for Kids.** Our long-running R.E.K. program offers after school care for children in grades K-5 at **Center Road School, Skinner Road School, Maple Street School, and Northeast School.** We offer a variety of activities to meet the recreational and educational needs of your children, with a focus on building positive relationships with peers and staff members. R.E.K. will run from the end of the school day until 6:00 pm and is held every day that school is held, including scheduled half days and early dismissal days.

### Daily Activities

- Homework/Quiet Activities- Children may use this time to work on homework, read, or engage in other activities such as puzzles and quiet games. Books are available at each site but your child is encouraged to bring a favorite book from home to read if they would like. Staff will be available for homework assistance as needed.
- Recreation- Children will have plenty of time for active recreation each day. Outdoor time on the school's play scape and athletic fields will be offered whenever weather permits, and in the case of inclement weather the school gym will be used. Recreation time will include a combination of structured games, team sports, and free play to allow your child to get moving and have fun!
- Arts & Crafts- A variety of arts & crafts activities will be offered to allow the children to explore their creativity, both through structured projects and free creative time.
- Snack- A healthy snack will be provided each day, with special consideration given for allergies or food restrictions.
- Enrichment Activities- We are proud to partner with

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community organizations to periodically bring a variety of additional enrichment activities to our R.E.K. programs

**Fees & Payments.** The fee for the 2016-17 school year is **\$13.50** per regular day, and **\$19.50** per early dismissal day. The first month's payment is due in full at the time of registration. Further payments are due on the 15th of each month and may be made online, by mail, and at your site or at the Parks & Recreation office. Late payments will incur a fee of \$8 per month. To see if you may qualify for financial assistance contact Care 4 Kids at 1-888-214-KIDS or [www.ctcare4kids.com](http://www.ctcare4kids.com).

## Picnic/Pavillion/Lodge Rentals

Many of the Town's picnic groves are available for rent. Reserve yours today. Picnic groves are located at the following locations:

**Valley Falls Park:** Located on Valley Falls Road, Valley Falls Park contains picnic areas out in the field and a pavilion. Fees vary by picnic areas and length of rental time.

**Henry Park:** Located at 120 South Street, Henry Park has two picnic grove areas and three picnic sites. There is a \$20 charge for residents and a \$25 charge for non-residents for the use of these groves. Additional fees may apply for parties of 35 guests or more. The Tower is a picturesque wedding spot and can be rented for \$50.

Also located in Henry Park is the **Russell G. Hartmann Pavilion**. The pavilion is 40 feet by 60 feet. This is the perfect spot to hold a family reunion, baby shower, birthday party and much more. The fee to rent the pavilion is \$35 per hour for a resident and \$40 per hour for non-residents. Hold your wedding or photo-shoot at the picturesque Tower at Henry Park. A flat rate of \$50 covers a reservation for your event.

**Newhoca Park:** Located on Grier Road, Newhoca Park has a large Pavilion (40'x60') that is great for all occasions. There is a \$35 per hour charge for residents and \$40 per hour charge for non-residents. Also at Newhoca is a terrific Lodge that is perfect for all-season parties, business events and holiday family gatherings. The cost is \$50 per hour for residents and \$60 per hour for non-residents. Newhoca Park has a small hexagon Pavilion measuring 20 feet that is great for all occasions. There is a \$20 per hour charge for residents and \$25 per hour charge for non-residents.

**For more Rental details, call 860-870-3520.**

### Additional PICNIC AREAS to enjoy...

Fox Hill Tower-Free                      Dart Hill North- Free  
Church St. Rails to Trails-Free      Phoenix Street Dam-Free  
Dart Hill Park-Free  
Walker's Reservoir-Free  
Saxony Mill Park-Free

## Teen Center Rental

The Teen Center is the perfect place to have a meeting, birthday party, shower or family gathering. Rooms available to reserve are:

### Big Community Room:

Holds up to 75 people  
Booth style seating  
Four 6' tables available upon request  
60 folding chairs available upon request  
Pool table, foosball table & air hockey table  
Food allowed  
Fee: Residents \$35, Non-Residents \$40

### Gymnasium:

Holds up to 300 people  
(Holds up to 175 with tables)  
2 Basketball hoops  
No food allowed  
Fee: Residents \$50, Non-Residents \$55

Fees are PER HOUR. After 2 hours, additional time may be added in half hour increments if desired. Your reservation must include set-up and clean up time. Renters are responsible for cleaning up and emptying garbage.

## Sponsorships

Do you see a program or event that coincides with your organization's mission? We have sponsorship opportunities for almost every program, event and field. Your organization can be front and center on shirts, fliers, field billboard and even on our webpage! Please contact us at 860-870-3520 to find out how you can increase you're organization's awareness.

**Send A Kid To Camp.** The Vernon Parks and Recreation Department is looking for sponsorships to send a child to camp this upcoming summer. A \$80 sponsorship can send a child to camp for a full week. Either donate on your own or get a group of people to pitch in and help 1 child. Our goal is to give 100 children the opportunity to go to camp this summer that may not usually be able to attend.

**Save A Life.** An estimated 300 children under the age of five drown in swimming pools and spas every year, and more than 4,200 kids 15 and younger visit hospital emergency rooms because of non-fatal submersion injuries, including those that result in permanent brain damage. The Town of Vernon is acting upon this upsetting statistic and has created the "Save A Life" Program, which is intended to send children to swim lessons for free. A \$45 donation can send a child through 8 classes of swim lessons. Become a hero and SAVE A LIFE today.

**Fireworks Sponsorship.** The annual fireworks will be held on Wednesday, July 6, 2016 (Rain date: July 7). The Parks and Recreation Department is accepting donations from individuals

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and businesses for this event. For details, contact the office at 860-870-3520.

**Field Signs.** Any business interested in having a 4x8 sign displayed, year round at the Henry Park softball field are asked to contact the P&R office regarding details. Henry Park has over 200,000 participants that use the Park. There are numerous special events that take place in the Park. There isn't a more visible place in Vernon, take advantage of this opportunity.

**Disc Golf Sign Sponsors.** The opportunity to sponsor a sign on the brand new Vernon Ecker Disc Golf Course, located on the Ecker Hill property is available. To sponsor a tee sign which is 6x18 would cost \$200 for two years. Your business will be on the tee sign along with a visual design of the hole and the number of the hole. There are only a few tee sign left so if you're interested please contact Steve Krajewski at the P&R office at 860-870-3520.

## Funerals – Memorial vs Traditional

Although the memorial service is gaining a degree of acceptance among certain groups in certain regions, the traditional funeral is still favored by the great majority. There are several reasons why the traditional service remains popular. One is simply that it is traditional. At a time of loss, the family may derive comfort from a familiar pattern, one which may have been sustaining in the past, such as the death of a parent or grandparent. A family may also be reluctant to deviate from a tradition which is strongly held within the

community. Equally important are the powerful psychological reasons for following this familiar ritual. Having the body present may help the mourners confront the reality of death and help them work through their grief. The presence of the body can also serve as the focus for the memorial to the deeds of the deceased. Remaining with the deceased until they are interred can be a comforting expression of devotion to the loved one.

Philip M. Pietras  
Pietras Family Funeral Homes

# events online

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Find your town • Click on the masthead for this quarter's issue • Scroll down for archived issues

# CT Agriculture Fairs

## **Middlesex & New Haven County 4-H Fair**

**August 5, 6 & 7**

Durham Fairgrounds, 24 Town House Road, Durham, CT  
www.4-Hfair.org, 203-407-3158

## **Tolland County 4-H Fair**

**August 12, 13 & 14**

24 Hyde Avenue (Route 30), Vernon, CT  
www.tollandcounty4-hct.org, 860-875-3331

## **Hamburg Fair**

**August 19, 20 & 21**

2 Sterling City Road, Lyme, CT  
www.hamburgfair.org, 860-908-4906

## **Brooklyn Fair**

**August 25, 26, 27 & 28**

15 Fairgrounds Road, Brooklyn, CT  
www.secretary@brooklynfair.org, 860-779-0012

## **Chester Fair**

**August 26, 27 & 28**

Kirkland Terrace, Chester, CT  
www.chesterfair.org, 860-526-5947

## **Cheshire Grange Community Fair**

**August 27 & 28**

44 Wallingford Road, Cheshire, CT  
www.cheshiregrange.org, 203-537-5213

## **Haddam Neck Fair**

**September 2, 3, 4 & 5**

26 Quarry Hill Road, Haddam Neck, CT  
www.haddamneckfair.com, 860-267-4671

## **Woodstock Fair**

**September 2, 3, 4 & 5**

281 Route 169, S. Woodstock, CT  
www.info@woodstockfair.com, 860-928-3246

## **Wapping Fair**

**September 8, 9, 10 & 11**

1 Cedar Avenue, South Windsor, CT  
www.wappingfair.org, 860-573-6780

## **North Haven Fair**

**September 8, 9, 10, 11**

290 Washington Avenue, North Haven, CT  
www.northhaven-fair.com, 203-239-3700

## **Four Town Fair**

**September 15, 16, 17 & 18**

56 Egypt Road, Somers, CT  
www.fourtownfair.com, 860-749-6527

## **Guilford Fair**

**September 16, 17 & 18**

Stone House Lane, Guilford, CT  
www.guilfordfair.org, 203-453-3543

## **Hillstown Grange Agricultural Fair**

**September 17**

617 Hills Street, East Hartford, CT  
www.hillstowngrange.org, 860-690-2845

## **Simsbury Grange Agricultural Fair**

**September 17**

236 Farms Village Road, Simsbury, CT  
www.simsburygrange.org, 860-413-9567

## **Orange County Fair**

**September 17 & 18**

152 Orange Center Road, Orange, CT  
www.orangefair.com, 203-430-6044

## **Durham Fair**

**September 22, 23, 24 & 25**

24 Town House Road, Durham, CT  
www.durhamfair.com, 860-349-9495

## **Berlin Fair**

**September 30, October 1 & 2**

430 Beckley Road, East Berlin, CT  
www.ctberlinfair.com, 860-828-0133

# Summer Reading, Summer Fun

## Tips from Vernon's Birth-8 Coordinator

Summer is around the corner and opportunities to explore the world through reading will be in bloom! One of the best things about summer is having more time to read. Books can travel anywhere and take you around the world and beyond. Kids who spend time reading during the summer go back to school in the fall with their reading skills improved. This will help them in school, and help them later in life. But even more importantly, kids who read during the summer will form life-long memories and make powerful connections with books.

For your youngest children, pointing out signs with lettering as you are out for a walk, drawing letters in the sand or with chalk on a sidewalk are all wonderful ways to share letter forms and sounds as a foundation for reading. Letters and words are everywhere and each time your child learns a new one, they will feel proud and so will you.

Summer is also the perfect time to visit town libraries and get your child their own library card. Not only does it make kids feel they are a member of the library, they also learn about sharing, and caring for books they borrow. Think about picking a day to visit each week over the summer to return and check out new books. Also, here in Vernon, the children's library has a huge collection of activity bags that can be taken out that include books and fun activities around a list of themes, from bugs to the universe! Also, there are free events for kids all summer long!

Have some time with nothing planned? Find a spot outside on a beautiful day, smell the grass and feel the breeze, and get lost in a good book. Many kids bring a book to day camp for something to do during quiet time. Summer reading should be a joy. Summer vacation should be a time to stretch out on a hammock or curl up in an armchair and dive deep into a fun, engrossing, fabulous read. Maybe you will visit the **Vernon Bookmobile** this summer and find a story that you

loved when you were little, or discover a title that brings you new perspective. Look for the summer schedule in local listings and at the children's section at the library.

Parents can help make this magic happen. Here are a few simple tips:

1. **Make sure your kids have plenty of books.** Take your kids to the library or the bookstore (new or used), go to yard sales, and sort through the books there.
2. **Bring books with you wherever you go, for your kids and for yourself (including audiobooks).** Make sure your kids see you reading, whether it's on the beach, or at home. Bonus points if you spend some of your time reading kids' books. Listen to audiobooks in the car, especially on long trips.
3. **Encourage social reading.** If your child wants to read a book because other kids are reading it (and you don't have personal reasons why you think your child isn't ready for the book), get a copy. Consider getting two copies of the same book, for your child and his or her best friend, so that they can both read it. Maybe go a movie based on a book, and also read the book. (Paddington, Madeline, Narnia, or Harry Potter for example)
4. **Try to keep some time available for reading.** This is perhaps the hardest thing, as schedules fill up with other summer events like sports, cookouts, and trips.

Here are a few recent titles recommended by Jen Robinson, a book reviewer for PBS, that are perfect summer reading for kids who enjoy fiction:

- *The Penderwicks at Point Mouette* by Jeanne Birdsall  
(Start with the first Penderwicks book, if you haven't already read it.)
- **A Million Miles from Boston** by Karen Day
- *Squish: Super Amoeba* by Jennifer L. Holm and Matthew Holm
- *Lunch Lady and the Summer Camp Shakedown* by Jarrett J. Krosoczka
- *Touch Blue* by Cynthia Lord
- *The Lost Hero* by Rick Riordan (a second series set in the same world as the Percy Jackson series.)
- *Penny Dreadful* by Laurel Snyder
- *The Emerald Atlas* by John Stephens

Questions? Call 860-870-6000 Ext. 112.

## What is 2-1-1? It is

Connecticut's free information and referral service. By dialing 2-1-1, a toll-free number throughout CT, callers can reach knowledgeable, multilingual staff and get information, referrals or seek help in a crisis. 2-1-1 operates 24 hours a day, every day of the year. TDD access is available.

# Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut

The Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut is Connecticut's leading source of information for the thousands of people who have epilepsy. Founded in 1982, the Foundation works to ensure that people with epilepsy are able to participate in all life experiences through information, education, recreation, advocacy and support.

"There are approximately 60,000 people in Connecticut who have epilepsy and an estimated 50,000,000 worldwide. Epilepsy is the most common neurological disorder in the United States and is equal in prevalence to cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease combined," said Linda Wallace, Executive Director.

A seizure is an abnormal electrical discharge in the brain. Seizures can be caused by head injuries, lack of oxygen at birth, brain tumors and other health condition. People often think of seizures only as jerking and shaking uncontrollably; however, not all seizures are convulsions. There are many different symptoms of seizures, which can include eye fluttering, staring and laughing. Recurring seizures can be a sign of epilepsy.

The Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut has many programs to offer those living with epilepsy. In particular, we offer 7 support groups throughout the state. Our

newest group is meeting in Guilford for adults living with epilepsy and parents of children with epilepsy. The meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at Guilford Parks & Recreation, 32 Church Street, Guilford, Connecticut.

Those interested in attending meetings are asked to please RSVP, to the Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut by calling 800-899-3745 or emailing Allison at [Allison@epilepsysct.com](mailto:Allison@epilepsysct.com). Offices are located at 386 Main Street, Middletown, CT.

## Did You Know That:

As early as 1783, a stage coach line was operating between Boston and New York, passing through Worcester, Palmer, Stafford Springs, Vernon, and Hartford? In 1784, Josiah Quincy described his experience on this route:

"I set out from Boston on the line of stage established by an enterprising Yankee. The journey took a week. The carriage was old and shacking, and much of the harness was made of ropes. One pair of horses carried the stage eighteen miles. We generally reached our resting place for the night, if no accident intervened, at ten o'clock, and after a frugal supper went to bed with a notice that we should be called at three the next morning. Then whether it snowed or rained the traveler must rise and make ready by the help of a horn lantern and a farthing candle, and proceed on his way over bad roads. Thus we traveled eighteen miles a stage, sometimes obliged to get out and help the coachman lift the coach out of a quagmire or rut, and arrived at New York after a week's hard traveling, wondering at the ease as well as the expedition of our journey."

All the stage coaches stopped at the tavern at Vernon Center which was built in 1793 by Alexander McLean.

Submitted by Town Clerk Bernice K. Dixon, MCTC, CMC



# Vernon Public Schools – Technology

In the spring, the Connecticut Educators Computer Association (CECA) hosts an annual Technology Expo at the Legislative Office Building at the capitol. The purpose of the Technology Expo is to showcase student technology projects from across the state. This year, Mrs. Warner's Puppet Pals project was among those selected by CECA to be on display during the event!

Mrs. Warner's 3rd grade students, from Northeast Elementary, created their own fractured fairy tales using an iPad app called Puppet Pals. The app allows students to manipulate characters, scenes, take pictures and record audio to create their own, one of a kind fractured fairy tale play. Prior to recording, students collaborated in groups to research traditional fairy tales, brainstorm their own plot and character changes and connect their ideas to a moral. After that, the students created their own fractured fairy tale scripts. They created these scripts based on elements

they learned during our fairy tale reading unit. Finally, they recorded their final products using Puppet Pals and were able to digitally share their creations with their parents.

At the Technology Expo, the students shared their knowledge with visitors who included: Mrs. Bajorek, (Vernon School Board Member), Mr. Champagne (Mayor of Vernon) and Mrs. Janowski (State Representative for Vernon). Mrs. Warner's group, located between a technical high school and a CREC aerospace and engineering academy, did an outstanding job explaining their project to visitors. Their teacher and parents were proudly standing near and supporting their efforts. Mr. Ramsdell, father of one of the students, commented, "I am proud to see my son demonstrating the use of technology vs. simply playing a game with technology." Cortney, a student in Mrs. Warner's class, shared, "It was fun to tell other people



how to use the app!" Nathaniel, another student, thought it was interesting to see what other schools were sharing.

Please visit the Vernon School District's Technology News page located at: <http://vernonpublicschools.org/technology-newsletter> to read about some of the other technology projects taking place in our schools.



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*"Dr. Veltri repaired the bicep tendon and rotator cuff in my left shoulder, and after a few weeks I could lift my arm better than before my injury. The Surgical Center also took great care of me." - John W., Tolland*

*"Lance knew exactly what to do for the compression fracture in my back and I was able to get back to basketball a lot sooner than I ever expected" - Erin H., Ellington*

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# Rockville High School – Creative Writing Students

Five Rockville High School students were selected by a national screening committee as Connecticut finalists for the Letters About Literature Contest. Congratulations to Gillian Foley, Vivian Ufongene, Hannah Brown, Sarah Ference, and Winona Scheff on this wonderful award.

Letters About Literature is a reading and writing contest for students in grades 4-12. Students are asked to read a book, poem or speech and write to the author (living or dead) about how the book affected them personally. Letters are judged on state and national levels. Tens of thousands of students from across the country enter Letters About Literature each year.

Kaitlyn Carr, Jacob Lowell, and Winona Scheff have been selected as three of Hill-

Stead Museum's Fresh Voices Finalists for 2016! All of the finalists read their work before a panel of judges at the Hill-Stead Museum on April 21st. The winners will have the opportunity to read at the Sunken Garden Poetry Festival in August.

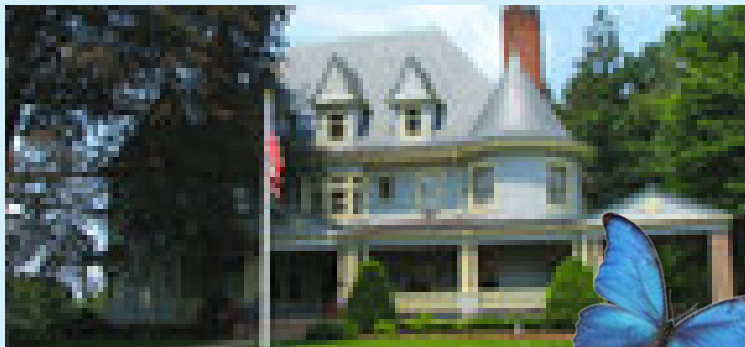
<http://www.hillstead.org/sunken-garden-poetry-festival/poetry-programs-students-educators/fresh-voices-poetry-competition/>

Six Rockville High School students have earned national recognition in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards of 2016! Congratulations to Kaleigh Perkins who earned a national gold medal for her short story, and to Gillian Foley, Mechele Horelick, Kylie Kearney, Winona Scheff, and Kenny Zheng who earned national

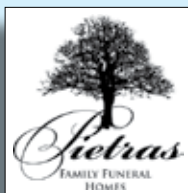


silver medals for their poetry collections. These students have been identified by panels of creative professionals as the most talented young artists and writers in the nation. This year, nearly 320,000 works of art and writing were submitted. Only the top 1% were recognized at the national level. These students have been invited to attend a ceremony at the world-famous Carnegie Hall on June 2.

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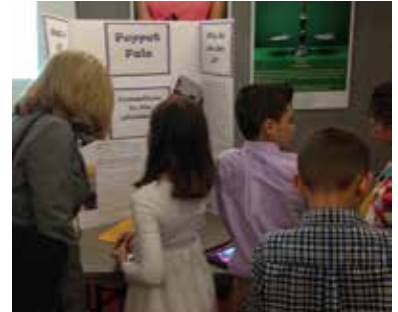
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# Center Road School Student Headed to the National Invention Convention in Washington, D.C.

On the morning of Saturday, April 30th, over 1,200 grade K-8 students and their families converged at the UConn Storrs campus for the 33rd annual finals of the Connecticut Invention Convention (CIC) program.

The following students from Vernon Public Schools received awards at the convention:

Name	School	Grade	Invention
Lucas Bonadies	Center Road School	5	Bunk Buddy
Isabel Cintron	Center Road School	5	The Cane Staytion
JT Dwire	Skinner Road School	5	Light Up Pony Tail Hat
Jakub Laskowski	Lake Street School	5	HAWK EYES
Kyle Schambach	Center Road School	5	Neuro Notice
Lillian Westerberg	Center Road School	5	Spec Tacular Holder



Pictured left to right in the photo are Center Road School students Lillian Westerberg, Isabel Citron, Kyle Shambach, and Lucas Bonadies.

Center Road School student Kyle Schambach was one of 40 students from Connecticut selected to go to Washington D.C. with his invention and participate in the National Invention Convention on May 21st. Kyle was selected as a Pitney Bowes Innovation Award winner. What an honor! Congratulations to Kyle and all the Vernon students who participated in the event!

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