

Vernon events

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The Mayor's Corner

I hope everyone has enjoyed a wonderful summer vacation! The Parks and Recreation Programs this summer were filled to capacity, and in some cases doubled in size. The Mayor's Concert Series was very popular and well attended. The Senior Center Volunteers provided a snack/bake sale at the concerts to raise funds for equipment at the new Senior Center. In this edition you will find new program offerings are available from the Parks Department for after school and a variety of other activities. Take a look and sign up soon, the programs are popular and fill quickly, don't delay.

Our cover story this quarter is an update on the purchase of 135 Bolton Road for our NEW Senior Center. Over the last few months a committee, made up of seniors, departments assigned to work on the new center, an architectural firm, town council members and at large members worked to review all of the suggestions made relative to the Center design. The committee visited other surrounding senior centers and consulted with the directors of each to get their guidance on how to proceed from both a design and program perspective. It is important to note that while the new Center may be larger, it also must provide space for every activity we presently have and allow for growth in the future. With this goal in mind, we are projecting that most areas of the Center will be multi-purpose to allow for maximum flexibility. Our very talented Public Works Department is working hard to get the new Center finished by the holidays! It's a very exciting project. Thank you to Michael Purcaro our Emergency Management Director and Robert Kleinhans, Director of DPW for their aerial photography for our cover.

We apologize for any inconvenience our road projects have presented. We are nearly complete for the 2017 paving season. In spring 2018 the DPW crews will return to work again to repair and rehabilitate

the next list of roads. Please read the Department of Public Works report and watch our website for updates as they occur.

As an update, the Amerbelle Project, last edition's cover feature, has reached completion. We have a potential developer under agreement to investigate the site for potential redevelopment.

Across the street at 19 Grove Street, we are nearing the end of court proceedings to acquire this parcel. The plan is to turn this property into a Town of Vernon park for all to enjoy. Take a ride by the area, see what a difference the changes have made to the neighborhood.

Relative to the State budget crisis, we all have our fingers crossed that the State will vote on a new budget soon so that we can move forward with our responsibilities here at home. I would like to thank all of you for your patience while we work our way through this very difficult time.

Finally, I wish all our Vernon students a safe and successful school year! Please study hard and listen to your parents and teachers as we head into the new school year.

Daniel A. Champagne
Mayor



Daniel A. Champagne, Mayor

Events Presents ~ Sports Medicine For All Athletes

Dr. Daniel Veltri is board certified in orthopedics and sports medicine. Dr. Veltri graduated magna cum laude from Washington University and received his medical degree from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. He completed his Surgical Residency at Hartford Hospital and his Orthopedic Residency at the University of Connecticut Department of Orthopedic Surgery. Dr. Veltri completed a Sports Medicine and Shoulder Fellowship emphasizing arthroscopic shoulder repairs at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York.

He is a member of the American Medical Association, the Arthroscopy Association of North America, the American Orthopedic Society for Sports Medicine, the Connecticut State Medical Society and the Sports Medicine Committee of Connecticut. Dr. Veltri is also a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. He has authored numerous publications in peer-reviewed sports medicine journals and has also presented many research papers at national orthopedic conferences. His areas of research interest are arthroscopic knee ligament repair, arthroscopic rotator cuff repair and shoulder reconstruction.

Dr. Veltri has completed a fellowship in sports medicine and is an experienced athletic team physician consultant. He has served a rotation for the New York Giants football team as assistant team physician, attending to world class athletes both on and off the field. Today, Dr. Veltri provides athletic game coverage, and is the Team Physician to 10 local area high schools.

Sports Medicine & Orthopedic is a main sponsor of the annual Manchester Road Race and also sponsors the Athletes Pre-race Pasta dinner. Dr. Veltri was captain of his varsity wrestling team at Washington University and remains an avid athlete. In his free time, he is an active triathlete who participates in races from sprint to Ironman distances. He also enjoys running road races and cross country skiing.

He is specialized in orthopedic sports medicine for patients of all ages and skill levels and provides customized preventative programs, injury rehabilitation, arthroscopy and reconstructive surgery. His sports medicine specialty training guides his treatment of every patient regardless of age, activity level, or mechanism of injury. Dr. Veltri's goal is to help his patients return to optimum recovery and maximum performance.



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Michael Purcaro

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Cover Story

This edition's cover photograph is courtesy of Michael Purcaro, Emergency Management Director and Robert Kleinhans, Director of Public Works.

Recently the Town of Vernon purchased the property known as 135 Bolton Road, (formerly Wolff-Zackin) to house our much need NEW Senior Center. Mayor Champagne and members of the Senior Center Advisory Committee worked to find the perfect location that would accommodate the many senior citizens who call Vernon home. Earlier this year the purchase was made and the plans to renovate the property into the NEW Senior Center began.

The Advisory and Design Committee worked to visit area senior centers and discuss with their directors space needs issues and

programming presently provided by their existing centers. The Committee continued their research by speaking to stakeholders and distributing surveys for individuals to contribute to the discussion. In the end, a design was drawn up to include multiple, multi-purpose rooms for activities and programs, a library and quiet space for reading and visiting, administrative offices, a full service kitchen (to house a snack bar, and to be used as a catering facility), and a room for members to play pool. The goal is to have the design accommodate the needs of all our seniors now and into the future.

Work has begun inside and outside the facility and the hope is that the Town will open its NEW Senior Center sometime in late fall. We'll keep you posted!

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DANIEL M. VELTRI, M.D.
Board Certified in Orthopedics with Subspecialty Certificate in Orthopedic Sports Medicine

- Assistant Team Physician - New York Giants, 1992-93
- Active Triathlete, Ironman Competitor
- Football Team Physician - South Windsor, Tolland, Coventry, E.O. Smith, East Catholic, Manchester and East Hartford High Schools



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Board Certified in Orthopedics

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WHAT OUR PATIENTS SAY...

"Dr. Veltri performed an ACL replacement on my knees. He and his staff are very friendly and courteous. Their professionalism, along with multiple successful referrals helped put my mind at ease throughout the preparation and recovery periods. I am looking forward to playing soccer again!" - John T., Ellington

"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 N., Ellington

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From the Town Clerk - History of the Vernon/Rockville Post Offices

By Bernice K. Dixon, Town Clerk, with information from "Cascades in Courage."

The post office at Vernon was established as Vernon Depot on July 29, 1853. Its name was changed to Vernon on September 28, 1885. The post office at Vernon Center was established about March 24, 1812. The first post office building was erected on the site of the old County Home. This post office was discontinued on March 15, 1910. There was not a post office in Rockville until 1842.

Mail service was meager for a number of years, one mail only coming to Rockville

and one going out each day. It was carried to Vernon Depot on the 9:30 am stage coach and brought to Rockville on the 3:30 pm stage. All the Rockville, Vernon Center, Tolland and Ellington mail did not even fill a mail bag. The stage driver waited while the mail was sorted. The beginnings of the Rockville Post office were in various stores or businesses on, or near, Park Place. A local newspaper dated May 17, 1872 indicated that there were 712 delivery boxes in Rockville, letters received were about 750 and letters sent about 725. A new Rockville post office was opened on May 31, 1918. It was located at the corner of Park

and School Streets and was constructed of Indiana limestone and tapestry brick with granite steps and limestone posts. That building was in use until a newer building was built at 141 Union Street around 1975. That building is still in use today.

For a time, there were two small branch post offices; one located on Hartford Turnpike and one located in Talcottville at 54 Hartford Turnpike. Currently, only the Talcottville branch services the Town of Vernon along with the main office in Rockville.

Town of Vernon Assessor Notice 2017-18 (Grand List Year 2017)

Board of Assessment Appeal hearings for Motor Vehicles are on Tuesday September 5th, Wednesday 6th & Thursday September 7th & Wednesday from 4:00 -7:00 pm, for the sole purpose of hearing appeals related to the assessments of motor vehicles on

the Grand List of October 1, 2016. Anyone wishing to appeal their motor vehicle assessment may make application in the assessor's office. Blank applications are also located on the Vernon Town Website under the Assessor's Department. Hearings are on a First come, first served basis. (State Statute #12-110)

Town Hall Annex Building @ 8 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut (Next to Town Hall). Anyone who appeals the assessment based on condition or high mileage must bring their vehicle to the hearing for an inspection. All documents considered. (860) 870-3625.

SOLAR ENERGY EXEMPTION

Applications for solar energy exemptions are available in the assessor's office. The value ADDED by the installation of passive or active solar systems will be the amount of the assessment exemption.

VETERANS

Any new veterans moving into Vernon need to have their discharge on file with the Town Clerk. The original form DD214 has to be filed with the Town Clerk before October 1, 2017 in order to receive benefits. If a veteran had lived in Vernon and moved away, and has now returned, they need to notify the Assessor's Office in order to activate their veteran exemption. Any claimant, still serving and unable to appear in person may forward to the Assessor annually a written statement, signed by the commanding officer of their unit or by the presentation of a notarized statement of a parent, guardian, spouse or legal representative of the claimant. The time served has to have been during wartime. Any veteran who is income limited that has not reapplied since last year should also contact the Assessor's Office. Forms can be obtained at the

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Assessor's Office. If there are any questions please call the Assessor's Office. (860-870-3625)

Disabled Veterans: If you have a:

10-25% Disability Rating, your assessment exemption is 3,000
26-50% Disability Rating, your assessment exemption is 4,000
51-76% Disability Rating, your assessment exemption is 5,000
76-100% Disability rating, your assessment exemption is 6,000 (age 65 and older)

NEW: Members of the National Guard who performed homeland security duties under Title 32 for 90 days or more on or after August 2, 1990 may be entitled to an exemption. The exemption is for 10/1/2008 going forward. Also, any National Guard member performing homeland security duty on October 1, 2008 or subsequent assessment date should call our office immediately. Please call for details.

Personal Property Declarations must be filled out, according to law, **between October 1st and November 1, 2017**. Those engaged in any type of business in the Town of Vernon failing to submit their declaration will receive a 25% penalty of the total assessment due and payable in July 2018. You can access our link below and file your Personal Property Declaration electronically. You do not have to submit a hard copy of the signature page to the Assessor when filing electronically; however, the deadline remains no later than November 1, 2017.

Electronic signatures are now acceptable. This should save the taxpayer or their agent time and means you can save your information electronically for future reference. We will be mailing out the hardcopy declaration along with your unique password to access our web-file. There will be instructions attached. <http://www.vernon-ct.gov/departments>.

Personal Property consists of: unregistered motor vehicles, campers, trailers, truck campers: snowmobiles, all terrain

vehicles, junk autos, farm equipment, horses, commercial furniture, fixtures and equipment, farming and mechanic tools, cables, conduits, gas pipes, electric and water companies.

Personal Property forms are mailed out to all those persons who declared personal property last year. **All new businesses** should appear before the Assessor the first time they declare such property to avoid any misunderstandings going forward. That is the opportunity to ask questions what should be declared and how to file the declaration. If personal property has been disposed of during the assessment year, please return the form stating the disposition of same.

All real property and registered motor vehicles are declared by the Assessor.

The blind should furnish proof of their disability and must file such proof with the Assessor by October 1, 2017.

All persons filing for land reductions under PA-490 Farm, Forest and Open Space for the first time, must submit an application to the Assessor between September 1st and November 1, 2017. (Revaluation Year) Recent changes in the law regarding New Forestland. Applications require the applicant to contact the Assessor. Open Space Applications must be approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission prior to filing with the Assessor.

New Change in the Law regarding disabled persons: You only have to file your Disability Rating with the assessor once unless the percentage changes. Totally disabled persons who are receiving permanent total disability under the Social Security program are entitled to an exemption of \$1,000 from their property assessment they own. You must submit an affidavit from Social Security to be eligible. The filing deadline for new applicants is October 1, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
David A. Wheeler CCMA II
Town Assessor

VERNON CEMETERY COMMISSION

Veterans Memorial Walkway

The Veterans Memorial Walkway has been established at the Lugg Memorial Field at Grove Hill Cemetery. Memorial bricks are available for purchase with the inscription of a veteran's name and additional information. The honored veteran need not have been buried at Grove Hill Cemetery.

Proceeds will be used for the maintenance of the Walkway.

Visit the Cemetery website for order forms for the Veteran Memorial Walkway. Cemetery Rules and Regulations and a fee schedule for lots and services are also posted on the web site. The Cemetery Office is located at 22 Cemetery Avenue at the entrance of Grove Hill Cemetery.

Website: vernon-ct.gov/cemetery.

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Disaster Preparedness Planning for Your Pets

Lyn T. Garson, CVT, CCRP, SAMT

Who can forget the 2011 Halloween Nor'easter grabbing us all completely by surprise? Widespread power outages and property damage caused many communities to remain without electricity for nearly two weeks, forcing residents - and their pets—to seek out public shelters. Many people were not prepared. Here is how to plan for emergencies in advance to ensure your pets' safety in any situation.

Animal Evacuation Supply Kit

In the event of an evacuation, always bring your pets with you - never leave them alone inside the home or tethered outdoors. If conditions are hazardous for people, then likewise it is not safe for animals. During an emergency there may not be sufficient time to assemble everything your pet needs, so plan ahead by purchasing a sturdy closed-top plastic tote and store the following provisions to take with you:

- Food (at least a 3-day supply) packed in waterproof containers
- Manual can opener for moist food
- Bottled water (at least a 3-day supply)
- Lightweight portable food and water bowls
- Prescribed daily medications, vitamins, nutritional supplements, flea and tick preventatives
- Medical records and vaccine certificates - make copies to keep in a plastic ziplock type bag
- Print out and laminate recent photos of you and your pet together to establish identity and ownership should you become separated from each other
- Contact information list of animal control agencies, veterinary hospitals, boarding facilities, and pet-friendly lodging in surrounding areas where you live or frequently travel with your pet. Also include this number for the National Animal Poison Control Center: 888-426-4435
- Extra collar or harness with identification tags, leash (non-retractable)
- Microchip identification tag - check online database for accuracy of contact information
- Favorite toys and treats to help reduce stress
- Sanitation supplies - disinfectant wipes, paper towels, wash cloths, pet waste disposal bags, absorbent puppy pads, cat litter/scoop/litter box, trash bags
- Towels and blankets for portable bedding
- Crate/pet carriers—sturdy plastic or metal only (cardboard carriers fall apart when wet). Carriers should be large enough for your pet to stand, turn and lie down comfortably.
- Label carriers with your name, phone number, and your pet's name.

Animal First Aid Kit

While not a substitute for professional veterinary care, a basic first aid kit for animals is essential. Sign up for a first aid

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course, or read and learn first aid procedures in advance so you can help save the life of your own pet, or someone else's, during an emergency. Keep one kit at home and pack another in your car while traveling. Some items a basic first aid kit should contain:

- Nonstick gauze pads in several sizes - do not use human adhesive "band-aids" on pets
- Rolled gauze in several sizes
- White bandage tape 1" wide
- Flexible pet bandage wrap 3" wide
- Bandage scissors
- Wound cleansing solution
- Alcohol pads
- Cotton-tipped applicators
- Latex-free gloves
- Liquid dish detergent, towel and washcloth
- Tweezers
- Sterile saline solution bottle
- Hydrogen peroxide - new unopened bottle (only administer to pet by veterinary consult)
- Karo® syrup - new unopened bottle (use for diabetic pets and only by veterinary consult)
- Nail clippers and styptic powder
- Foil blanket
- Instant warm/cold compress - cover with fleece or cloth to prevent burns or skin irritation
- Digital rectal thermometer and lubricant

- Contact information list (same as in evacuation kit)
- First-aid guidebook

Animal Rescue Kit

Be ready for the unexpected when away from home. Prepare two animal rescue kits, one for home in case a neighbor needs to rescue your pet if you are not able to return home yourself, and keep another travel rescue kit in your car. Rescue kits should contain the following:

- Pillowcases for quick capture and/or temporary transport device
- Towels and blankets can be used for covering animals to calm or distract them, or for wrapping an injured or scared animal
- Leash and/or loop rope to act as a lasso for quick capture
- Heavy leather work gloves for hand protection, and a muzzle for your pet to prevent biting. When stressed or panicked, animals may even bite people they know and trust otherwise
- Portable transport carriers
- Special treats to coax animals into carrier or vehicle
- Contact information list (same as in evacuation kit)

Being prepared provides your pet the best chance of staying safe. Keep in mind your pet may require unexpected assistance even during everyday situations. Pets depend on you - always be ready to help.



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Northern Connecticut Land Trust

The Many Faces Of Talcott Ravine



The ravine as carved by the river.
Photo by Jon Roe



Tankerhoosen Pond in Autumn.
Photo by Jon Roe

The Northern Connecticut Land Trust (NCLT) owns and maintains seven Vernon properties totaling 100 acres.

Perhaps the most interesting is the 20-acre Talcott Ravine at the western end of the Tankerhoosen River donated in 2010 by John Talcott Jr. Here nature, history and recreation meet - a place to remember Vernon's industrial past while the river and pines help you unwind.

The river enters the preserve over the Dobsonville Pond dam, then cuts through the ravine it carved out eons ago, before taking a leisurely journey through tall pines on its way to join the Hockanum River. Far above the river on the south bank is the Hop River Rail-Trail.

The peaceful aura of the ravine today is a far cry from what you would have found 100 to 150 years ago when Peter Dobson's two cotton mills competed with Rockville as the industrial center of Vernon. Remnants of both factories remain showing the location of water wheels, turbines, factory walls and canals. With imagination you might picture

the busy and noisy life of the time as you walk through today's quiet pines on the path once traveled by wagon and horse connecting the Dobson and Talcottville mills.

Today the river is a favorite of fishermen. At the Talcottville end of the preserve is Talcottville Pond, the only one of the three lower lakes with no cottages or buildings. Here wildlife flourishes throughout the year. You might find geese, ducks, turtles, blue heron, song birds and even an occasional beaver. Perhaps those sitting quietly with pole in hand are here more for the tranquility than the fish.

Talcott Ravine is open to the public with access from both ends. On Saturday, October 14 at 1 pm NCLT will lead its annual history-geology-nature hike from Talcottville through the Talcott Ravine and returning on the Rail-Trail. Learn more about NCLT at NorthernCTLandTrust.org. Member Vernon Volunteers' Collaborative.

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Social Services

Energy Assistance: Our office will start taking appointments on September 5 for the upcoming Energy Season. Please call 860-870-3661 ext. 0 to make your appointment.

Choices Program: Are you on Medicare? If so open enrollment is fast upon us! This year open enrollment is from October 15 to December 7. Our office has 3 Choices counselors ready to help you navigate the Medicare maze! We evaluate your individual circumstances along with medication lists and provide you with the best options for you to help you make an informed choice in your health care. Please call 860-870-3661 ext. 0 to make a Choices appointment.

Renters Rebate: FINAL DATE TO APPLY IS OCTOBER 1. This program is for disabled and senior renters. Call today! 860-870-3661 ext. 0.


Holiday Sponsors: We are looking for sponsors for our Holiday Toy Program for children. Each year we strive to provide a special holiday for 100 Vernon children. This year the children will be providing us with their Holiday List and our goal is provide them with one or two gifts (minimum) from their list. We will supplement these gifts from our "shop." We sincerely appreciate the generosity of our residents who go above and beyond every year. If you are able to help with this program by sponsoring or donating financially (we will do the shopping for you!), please call 860-870-3661 ext. 0.

Back to School Clothing Drive: We would like to thank everyone who helped us make our Back to School clothing drive such a HUGE success for the kids of Vernon. Fifty-two children received clothing. Whether you sponsored a child, a family of children, or made a monetary donation you made a difference in the life of a child. We couldn't do this program without all of you!

Let it Snow: Winter is approaching. Last winter was great for most, but very difficult for our seniors and disabled. Many reached out to the town looking for assistance shoveling their driveways, sidewalks, and walkways. Please reach out to elderly and disabled neighbors when the snow starts coming down if you are able, to help them clear snow.

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860.299.4568**

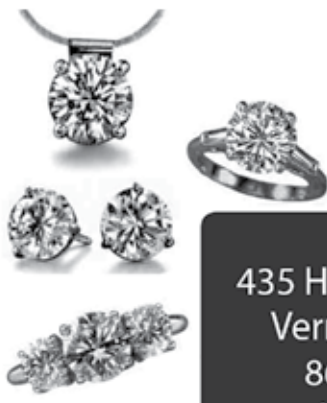


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Vernon Parks & Recreation Department

120 South Street, Vernon, CT 06066 / 860-870-3520 / www.vernonrec.org

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Thursday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm / Fridays, 8:30 am-3:00 pm

GENERAL INFORMATION

VISIT US ONLINE – www.vernonrec.org is your source for the most up-to-date program and event information. You can register for programs and view information about all the parks and trails in Vernon.

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. You may register online at 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.

PAYMENTS & REFUNDS – Registration is not considered valid until the program fee is paid. We accept cash, check, MasterCard, Visa or Discover. Please visit us online at www.vernonrec.org for our refund and payment policy

INCLEMENT WEATHER – In the case of inclement weather, the Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to cancel programs for the day. Registered participants will be notified via e-mail. Participants may also call the after-hours cancellation line at 860-870-3520.

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.

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS



R.E.K. (RECREATION AND EDUCATION FOR KIDS) AFTER SCHOOL
After school fun right at your child's elementary school! R.E.K. is available for children in grades K-5 at Center Road School, Lake Street School, Maple

Street School, Northeast School, and Skinner Road School.

Hours & Dates: End of school day – 6:00 pm

First day of school – Last day of school

Fees: \$14/day; \$19/early dismissal day

Please visit our website or refer to the Parent handbook for more details on payment schedule and cancellation & refund policies.

Daily Activities • Homework time • Snack (one snack per day provided) • Recreation Activities include team sports, group games, outdoor free play, arts & crafts, board games, and more!

Registration began July 10th. Please visit www.vernonrec.org or stop by the Vernon Parks & Recreation Office for more information.

MORNING CLUB

Start your child's day in a positive way at Skinner Road Morning Club!

Morning Club is available for children in grades K-5 attending Skinner Road School.

Hours & Dates: 7:00 am – First Bell

First day of school – Last day of school

Fees: \$8/day



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Please visit our website or refer to the Parent handbook for more details on payment schedule and cancellation & refund policies
Daily Activities: • Participants are welcome to bring a prepared breakfast item to eat in the morning • Recreation Activities include board games, arts & crafts, group games, Legos, and more!
Registration began July 10th. Please visit www.vernonrec.org or stop by the Vernon Parks & Recreation Office for more information.

VACATION CAMP

No School? No problem!

Vacation Camp runs on select holidays and Professional Development days when there is no school during the school year. This program is open to children in grades K-5, and is held at Center 375 (375 Hartford Turnpike).

Hours & Dates: 7:00 am – 6:00 pm

Please visit www.vernonrec.org for an updated list of dates.

Fees: \$40/day for Vernon residents

\$50/day for non-Vernon residents

Please visit our website or refer to the Parent handbook for more details on payment schedule and cancellation & refund policies.

Daily Activities: • Participants should bring a lunch, drink, and two snacks • Recreation Activities include team sports, group games, outdoor free play, arts & crafts, board games, and more!
• Longer sessions of Vacation Camp may include field trips

PRESCHOOL & YOUTH PROGRAMS

MOVE “N” GROOVE

This parent/child class will be sure to get your child up and dancing to the beat, moving to the music and having fun! Ms Jess with Beyond Dance will be instructing the class. This program is for children ages 18-36 mths. Parent participation is required. Participants will play fun games, dance, sing songs, learn rhythm and beats. NOTE: classes will be held continuously in 4 week sessions and participants are welcome to start at any point.

Thursdays

10:00-10:45 am

Vernon Teen Center Dance Room

Fee: \$40.00 for 4 week session increments beginning September 7

Drop in Fee \$12 per class

PRESCHOOL FITNESS

Get your little ones on their feet and ready to have some fun! This program is for children ages 2.5-5yrs old. Participants will play fun games with hula hoops, parachutes, sing songs, skip, jump and much more. This class will help your child develop motor, listening and social skills. NOTE: this is a 4-week program.

Fridays

Session 1: September 15-October 6

Session 2: October 13-November 3

Session 3: November 10-December 8 (no class 11/24)

9:30-10:15 am

Vernon Teen Center Fitness Room

Fee: Residents \$35.00

Non-Residents \$45.00

PEE WEE TRACK

This program is open to children ages 3-5 years old. Learn the fundamentals of track and cross country running. Here is the opportunity to meet new friends, release that bundle of energy and have fun learning the sport behind running! Participants will play fun drills and activities to develop an appreciation and love for running track. All participants will receive a T-shirt.

Thursday

September 7-28 (October 5 will be used if a makeup is needed)

5:30-6:15 pm

Rockville High School Track

Fee: \$40 Residents, \$50 Non-Residents

SPORTS NUTZ

This instructional program teaches the fundamentals of four different sports (basketball, baseball, soccer and track & field) to children ages 3-5 years old. A variety of fun drills and activities are used to develop athletic skills and a love for the game. The program focuses on the most basic fundamentals of the sports. All participants will receive a T-shirt.

Saturdays

September 23-October 14

10:00-11:00 am

Center 375 Gymnasium

Fee: Residents \$40, Non-Residents \$50

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Catering

Great tasting dinners and entrees for any occasion and any size crowd. Pick from any of our specialties or create your own. The possibilities are endless! See our online Catering Menu.

Take Out

Not sure what's for dinner... Our whole menu is available for take out!

346 Kelly Road, Vernon Ct
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Parks & Recreation... continued from page 13

DODGEBALL

This program is for anyone in grades 5-8. Participants will meet once a week and have a great time playing dodgeball. Get a group of friends to register or come to meet new friends! This will definitely be a fun time for all. This program runs in 4 week sessions.

Tuesdays

Session 1: October 3-24

Session 2: November 14-December 5

7:00-8:00 pm

Center 375 Gym

Fee: Residents \$40, Non-Residents \$50

PEE WEE SOCCER

An instructional, coed program for children ages 3-6. This program focuses on the fundamentals of soccer using a variety of fun drills and activities.

Wednesdays

September 6 to October 11

Ages 3&4 5:30-6:15 pm

Ages 5&6 6:15-7:00 pm

Henry Park Softball Field

Fee: Residents \$45. Non-residents \$55



CROSS COUNTRY CHALLENGE

The meet is open to all students in Vernon elementary schools in grades K-5. Experience with running is NOT necessary. The family event stresses partici-

pation and fun. All participants will be acknowledged for their efforts. Pre-registration is REQUIRED, we cannot accept day-of or on-site registration. Participation is free. Participants should arrive 15 minutes before their time.

Monday October 23, 2017

Rockville High School Track

K and 1st meet begins at 5:30 (Once around the track)

2nd and 3rd meet begins at 6:00 (Twice around the track)

4th and 5th meet begins at 6:30 (Three times around the track)

PEE WEE NINJA WARRIOR

Get the little ones up and moving! Class is held at a different park each week, where we will use the playground in a new and exciting way. Slides, monkey bars and stairs will be transformed into a fun obstacles course. Participants develop motor skills through

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balance, strength and endurance. Program lasts for six weeks. Class size is limited, participants receive a t-shirt.

Ages 3-5

September 11 to October 26 (no class 10/9)

Mondays 5:30 pm-6:00 pm

Thursdays 9:00 am-9:30 am

Location varies

Fee: Residents \$35, Non-residents \$45

DISC GOLF CLUB

Disc Golf is rapidly growing in popularity! It is played outdoors almost all year, even in New England. The rules are similar to golf, however specialty designed frisbees replace golf clubs/golf balls. This program will utilize the Ecker Hill Disc Golf Course in Vernon for practices and games. Loaner discs will be available for use during the program or participants may bring their own. This program will introduce participants to the sport of Disc Golf while they work on mechanics to maximize drives and precision putting. Participants receive a T-shirt.

Ages 9-11 Thursdays 5-6 pm & Saturdays 10-11 am

Ages 12-15 Thursdays 6-7 pm & Saturday 11-12 pm

September 14th to November 4th

Fee: Residents \$50, Non-residents \$60

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

If you're looking for a well-deserved night out, mark these dates on your calendar! Drop the kids with us to play board games, crafts, group and co-operative games. Pizza dinner provided. Each night has its own unique theme. Pre-registration is required and space is limited.

Program is held at the Teen Center (375 Hartford Turnpike)

Ages 6-10

5:00 pm-9:00 pm

Saturday November 18th Costume Dance Party

Saturday December 9th Movie and Popcorn Night

Saturday December 16th Cookie Decorating

Fee: Residents \$20, Non-Residents \$30

PEE WEE BASKETBALL



An instructional, coed program for ages 3-5 years old. Participants will play games and activities which introduce basketball movements. This is an eight week program. Classes will progress through basketball skills

such as running, dribbling, shooting and passing. Class size is limited. Participants receive a T-shirt.

Saturdays

December 9th through February 17th (no program on 12/23, 12/30 & 1/13)

Ages 3-5 years old

9:00 am-9:30 am

9:30 am-10:00 am

Fee: Residents \$45, Non-residents \$55

K-1st GRADE JUNIOR BASKETBALL LEAGUE

An instructional, coed program that teaches the fundamentals of basketball to young players using a variety of fun drills and activities designed to develop basketball skills. Class size is limited. Participants receive a T-shirt. This is an eight week program.

Saturdays

December 9th through February 17th (no program on 12/23, 12/30 & 1/13)

Grade K & 1

10:15-11:00 am

11:00-11:45 am

Residents \$45

Non-residents \$55

GRADE 2 BEGINNERS BASKETBALL LEAGUE

An instructional, coed program for children in Grade 2. Instructional full court basketball games are introduced in the second half of the program. Teams will scrimmage within their registered time blocks. Class size is limited. Participants receive a T-shirt.

This is an eight week program.

Saturdays

December 9th through February 17th (no program on 12/23, 12/30 & 1/13)

Grade 2

12:00 pm-1:00 pm

1:00 pm-2:00 pm

Fee: Residents \$45, Non-residents \$55

*GRADE 3 & 4 RECREATION BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Full court basketball games are introduced with an instructional format. Teams are instructed by volunteer coaches. Practices will take place for one hour one day a week. Games will take place once a week on Saturdays. Participants will receive a T-shirt. Teams play a six game schedule.

Mandatory player evaluations will be the week of November 13th.

Practice will tentatively begin the week of November 27th.

Girls, grade 3&4

Boys, grade 3&4

Fee: Residents \$55, Non-residents \$65

*GRADE 5-8 BOYS & GIRLS RECREATION BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Develop your basketball skills while you become a team player in this recreation league program. Participants will be placed on a team and will be coached by volunteers. Teams practice on a weeknight with games on Saturdays and possibly a few Sundays. This league partners with surrounding towns and some games will be away games. There are no requests for team placement or practice night. Participants will receive a T-shirt. Mandatory

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Parks & Recreation... continued from page 15

player evaluations will be the week of November 13th. Practice will tentatively begin the week of November 27th.

VERNON RESIDENTS ONLY: \$55

Girls, grade 5&6

Boys, grade 5&6

Girls, grade 7&8

Boys, grade 7&8

*GRADE 9-12 BOYS RECREATION BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Develop your basketball skills while you become a team player in this recreation league program. Participants will be placed on a team and will be coached by volunteers. Teams practice on a weeknight with games on Saturdays and possibly a few Sundays. There are no requests for team placement or practice night. Participants will receive a T-shirt. Mandatory player evaluations will be the week of December 11th. Practice will tentatively begin the week of December 18th.

VERNON RESIDENTS ONLY: \$55

Boys, grade 9-12

*VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED

The Boys and Girls Recreation Basketball Leagues cannot begin until we have volunteer coaches for all the teams in that league. Extensive basketball knowledge/playing experience is not required. We look for coaches who will provide a safe, fun and educational experience while setting nothing less than the best example for players. All coaches must submit to a background check and attend the pre-season coaches meeting.



TRAVEL BASKETBALL

To the parents of all **BOYS & GIRLS** in Grades 5 through 8, if your son or daughter is interested in playing travel basketball they should have registered by September 15th. This will be the deadline. All players registered will go through 3 try out dates in early October.

Our goal is to contact as many boys and girls to inform them of all the information. This is an excellent

opportunity to have your son/daughter learn the fundamentals of the game and play against some tough competition and have some fun. This program is a feeder program to the Middle School and High School teams.

PARENTS CAN REGISTER ONLINE THROUGH THE VERNON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT. A \$50 FEE MUST ACCOMPANY EACH REGISTRATION

Here are some important facts to know:

- The BOYS will have a 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade teams. Registration will dictate the number of teams.
- The GIRLS will have a 5th and 6th grade combined team and a

7th and 8th grade combined team. Again, this is dependent on registration.

- Season starts around the first week of December and goes until March.
- The schedule consists of approximately 20 games including playoffs.
- Some of the opponents are Bolton, Coventry, East Windsor, Ellington, Somers, etc.
- Most games are played on weekends.
- There will be one or two practices during the week.
- The cost per player TBD, due upon making the team.
- EACH TEAM WILL NEED TO FUNDRAISE TO OFFSET THE COST OF THE PROGRAM. There will be a number of options... Coaches will explain the day of the parent's meeting and brainstorm.

YOUTH WRESTLING

Learn the sport of wrestling. It teaches self-discipline, self-confidence and fortitude. It also helps to develop strength of character in young people. This is an eight week co-ed program held one night a week at the Rockville High School Wrestling Room. Class is tentatively scheduled to begin the first week of January. Participants receive a t-shirt.

Ages 5-7 5:30-6:30 pm

Ages 8-12 6:30-7:30 pm

Residents: \$45

Non-residents: \$55

ADULT PROGRAMS

COED VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

Spend some time with friends, make new ones, or just enjoy playing volleyball. Matches will be officiated by league supervisors. Individuals ages 18 and over that are interested in participating in the coed league as a team or joining a team should contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 870-3520. This league meets on Tuesday & Wednesday evenings at 8 pm.

Teams need to register by Sept. 28.

Tuesday & Wednesday Games starting Oct. 10/11 (the first week will be practice)

Vernon Center Middle School

Fee: \$400 per team

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

The women's volleyball league is a great opportunity to team up with friends once a week with the common goal of fun. Matches are officiated! Individuals ages 18 and over that are interested in participating in the league as a team or joining a team should contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 870-3520. This league meets on Tuesday evenings 6-8 pm.

Teams need to register by Sept. 28.

Tuesdays Games starting Oct. 10 (the first week will be practice)

Vernon Center Middle School

Fee: \$400 per team

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. The program begins in September and runs weekly.

Mondays & Wednesdays
7:05-8:05 pm
Center 375 Gym

Thursdays
9:00-10 am
Vernon Teen Center Dance Room

Saturdays
9:30-10:30 am
Vernon Teen Center Fitness Room

Drop In rate: \$8.00/class

BARRE FITNESS

Barre is a combination of the technique of ballet, the strengthening of pilates and the motivation stimulation of dance. The barre is used as a prop to balance while doing exercises that focus on isometric strength combined with high repetitions of small range of motion movements. Alterations to barre exercises can incorporate light handheld weights, resistance bands and weighted balls to bring the burn during all those repetitions, as well as mats for targeted core work. Tone, stretch, slim and sweat with barre.

Tuesdays
6:30-7:30 pm
Vernon Teen Center Fitness Room
Drop In rate: \$8.00/class

POUND

POUND® is a full-body drumming workout that uniquely combines cardio, conditioning, and strength training with yoga and pilates-inspired movements using lightly weighted exercise drumsticks (Ripstix®). Channel your inner rockstar with this full-body cardio jam session inspired by the infectious, sweat-dripping fun of playing the drums. Using Ripstix®, lightly weighted exercise drumsticks, torch calories and drum your way to a leaner, slimmer physique – all while rocking out to your favorite music!

Thursdays
7:00-8:00 pm
Vernon Teen Center Fitness Room
Drop In rate: \$8.00/class

ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE

The Fall Adult Softball league will start the Tuesday after Labor Day Weekend, pending the completion of the Summer League. All

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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Parks & Recreation... continued from page 17

leagues play on set nights, no out of town fees for non-resident players. Eight regular season games, all teams make the playoffs. Registration fee is \$570 which includes umpires, new softballs for every game and USSSA registration. Games are held at Henry Park Softball Field and Community Field.

RETURNING TEAMS must have a 50% deposit by July 7th to hold their spot.

NEW TEAMS may begin to register on July 10th. 50% deposit due when registering.

ALL TEAMS must have final balances paid by August 11th.

MEN'S LEAGUES

Monday C League

Tuesday D League

Wednesday B League

CO-ED LEAGUES

Thursday Night League

Sunday Evening League

DISC RENTAL

Discs to use at Ecker Hill Disc Golf Course are available to rent from our office located at 120 South Street in Henry Park. There is no fee to rent discs, however a valid driver's license or state issued ID is required.



VERNON TEEN CENTER

The Vernon Teen Center is open to Vernon Teens on Friday evenings from September to May. The Teen Center provides a variety of safe, supervised activities for all teens. Some of these activities include billiards, basketball tournaments, video games, xbox tournaments, dances, karaoke, and much, much more. Monthly calendars of events will be available at Vernon Center Middle School, the Parks and Recreation Office, and at the Teen Center. Teens must register for a membership on their first visit.

WHO: Vernon Residents or Vernon Center Middle School teens in grades 6-8. Teen Center will be open for seventh and eighth-graders only, except on the first and last Friday of each month. The first and last Friday of each month will be sixth grade night. Guests are permitted on a limited basis.

Sept. 22

7-9:45 pm

OPENING NIGHT FOR 7th & 8th GRADE

Sept. 29

7-9:45 pm

OPENING NIGHT FOR 6th GRADE

FEE: \$12 membership fee per year / nightly activities vary in price

REGISTRATION INFORMATION: A registration form must be completed upon the first visit to the Teen Center. The registration form must have a parent or guardian's signature before any activities can be attended. Rules, policies and regulations must be adhered to or membership may be revoked. Registration forms will be distributed through the Middle School, on the above dates at the Teen Center, and at the Parks and Recreation office.

FAMILY EVENTS & BUS TRIPS

THE READING TRAIL

One mile in length, the Reading Trail begins at the Church Street trail head of Rails to Trails. A children's book will be spaced out from the trail head entrance, to the half mile marker and back. Families can enjoy a section of our beautiful trail system in Vernon while reading a story together. Every three weeks through Labor Day a new book will be placed on the trail for the community to enjoy.



HALLOWEEN BOO BASH

Come and enjoy an afternoon of fun and safe Halloween activities with a walk down trick-or-treat aisle, play games, lots of candy and giveaways. A special thank you to Price Chopper for their support and donations.

Children ages 3-10

Saturday, Oct. 28th

3:00-4:15 pm

Vernon Teen Center (begins at the lower level side entrance)

Fee: No fee, however, we ask all who come to bring a can good for the Tri-Town Food Shelter.

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY WORKSHOP

Enjoy a morning of shopping and errand running while your child enjoys a fun-filled morning of holiday craft and gift making, cookie decorating, games, and more.

Children ages 5-10

Saturday, Dec. 2

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Vernon Teen Center

Fee: Residents \$15, Non-Residents \$25

Unwrapped toy donations are accepted for the Toy for Tikes collection.

Participants must be registered by Wednesday, November 30. Space is limited.

BOSTON BUS TRIP

Enjoy a day in Boston. The Vernon Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring this day trip to Boston on Saturday, October 14. This is a perfect time of year to view the foliage on the drive and enjoy the beauty of Boston for the day! The bus will leave from the Vernon Teen Center (375 Hartford Tpke) at 8:30 am to arrive in Boston at approximately 10:30 am. The bus will drop off/pick up from Quincy Market in Boston. The bus will depart from

Boston at 6:30 pm to arrive back in Vernon at approximately 8:30 pm.

Saturday, October 14

Fee: Residents \$40 Non-Residents \$50

NEW YORK CITY BUS TRIP

Enjoy a fun day on your own in New York City. The Vernon Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring this day trip to New York City on Saturday, December 9. This is a perfect time of year to view the famous tree in Rockefeller Center, see the amazing windows decorated in the stores, shop for holiday gifts or get tickets to a show. New York City is filled with excitement! The bus will leave from the Vernon Teen Center at 8:30 am to arrive in New York City at approximately 10:45 am. The bus will depart from New York City at 6:30 pm to arrive back in Vernon at approximately 9:00 pm. Enjoy this wonderful opportunity to see New York City at one of the most beautiful times of the year!

Saturday, December 9

Fee: Residents \$45 Non-Residents \$55

ARCTIC SPLASH



The 9th Annual Arctic Splash is on Saturday, December 2nd. Brave the icy December waters of Valley Falls for a great cause! Monies raised will benefit the Send-A-Kid to Camp Fund which provides Summer Camp scholarships to families in Vernon.

FREE T-shirts for everyone who pre-registers for the Arctic Splash by November 3rd.

Awards are presented for the most money raised by an individual, most money raised by an organization, best individual costume and best team costume.

Make sure to check out our website for all the updated information.

DANCE PROGRAM

Dance classes will be held continuously in 4 week sessions, beginning the week of September 5 (no class on 9/4). Each week progresses for a performance in December 2 and June. All classes are held at Center 375. Instructor Jessica and staff from Beyond Dance will be teaching a variety of different classes. For more detailed class descriptions please visit the Parks & Recreation Dept. website at www.vernonrec.org. This schedule is tentative, as classes must reach a minimum number of students to run.



Monday Classes: Dance Stars (age 2) 4:45-5:30

Dance Stars (ages 3-4) 5:30-6:15

Boys Hip Hop (ages 6+) 5:30-6:15

Tuesday Classes: Dance Stars (ages 3-4) 4:30-5:15

Hip Hop/Jazz (ages 5-7) 5:15-6:00

Wednesday Classes: Shooting Stars (ages 7-11) 4:45-5:30

Instructor Permission Only for Shooting Stars

Lyrical (ages 8-11) 5:30-6:15

Hip Hop (ages 8-11) 6:15-7:00

Thursday Classes: Move-N-Groove (ages 18-36 mths) 10-10:45

Dance Stars (ages 3-4) 1:00-1:45

Ballet/Tap (ages 5-6) 4:15-5:15

Tap 1 (ages 8+) 5:30-6:15

Ballet (ages 11+) 5:15-6:15

Tap 2 (ages 8+) 6:15-7:00

Instructor Permission Only for Tap 2

Ballet (ages 7-10) 6:15-7:00

Pom/Jazz (ages 8+) 6:15-7:00 (in gym)

Hip Hop Teen (ages 12+) 7:00-8:00

Contemporary Teen (ages 12+) 8:00-9:00

Adult Tap (18+) 8:00-9:00

Saturday Classes: Dance Stars (ages 2-3) 9:00-9:45

Tap/Jazz (ages 6-8) 9:45-10:30

Dance Stars (ages 4-5) 10:30-11:15

Hip Hop/Tap (ages 9+) 11:15-12:00

Open Ballet/Lyrical (ages 6+) 12:00-12:45

Dance Class Fee Structure: \$40 for 1 class, \$30 for each additional class. Discount is NOT available with online registration. For discount, you must pay at the class for the additional class discount.

*NOTE: The classes that require instructor permission MUST get permission and register at site. Online registration is NOT available for permission only classes.

*Dance Stars is what was previously titled Preschool Combo.

If you are interested in trying a class, you may pay a \$12.00 drop in rate at the site.

ZUMBA KIDS

This fitness program for kids is a blast! It's a fast-forward fusion of the Zumba program's moves (salsa, cumbia, reggaeton, hip-hop and more) and high-octane workouts designed to let kids ages 6+ max out on fun and fitness all at the same time. Safe and effective, kids can't wait to get into the Zumba groove. Watch their energy and fitness levels soar as they get the groove.

Mondays

6:15-7 pm

\$8/class drop in fee

continued on page 20

Parks & Recreation... continued from page 19

FOX HILL MEMORIAL TOWER

Fox Hill Tower overlooks the famous Connecticut Valley and presents a panorama of some of the most charming landscape scenery to be found in New England. From its summit, 693 feet above sea level, a magnificent view. The lowest point in the town is at the corner of West and Union Street, which has an elevation of 32.6 feet. The Tower is located in Henry Park, 120 South Street at the top of the hill. Come during free open hours Wednesday evenings, Saturday and Sundays to view the magnificent view. Saturdays & Sundays, May 27-November 12, 1:00-4:00 pm
Wednesdays, May 31-August 30, 6:00-8:00 pm

PICNIC/PAVILION/LODGE RENTALS

Vernon Parks & Recreation has a variety of picnic areas and pavilions available for public use. Use of these sites is on a first-come, first-served basis and they are available to the general public during park hours. These areas, as well as the beautiful Newhoca Lodge, the Showmobile, and rooms at Center 375 are also available to reserve for family or organizational events & parties. Please visit our website at www.vernonrec.org for more details regarding rules and fees for reservations.

GENERAL RENTAL INFORMATION

Please visit our website at www.vernonrec.org for specific details regarding rules and fees for reservations. Fees are per hour. Full payment for the reservation is due up front in order to reserve a date. Reservation time must include set-up and clean-up time, and renters are responsible for cleaning up and disposing of garbage. Refunds will ONLY be granted in the event a cancellation is made with written notice 30 days or more prior to the reservation. A \$25 cancellation fee will be charged. NO refunds will be issued for cancellations made with less than 30 days' notice. Alcohol is not allowed on any Vernon Parks & Recreation property. Please visit our website for additional restrictions and rules.

HENRY PARK

The majestic Memorial Tower at Fox Hill makes a picturesque setting for a wedding and may be reserved in three-hour time blocks. The picnic groves and the Russell G. Hartmann Pavilion can be rented for family gatherings, baby showers, birthday parties, and business events year-round. The Showmobile, a mobile stage, is ready for local or out of town rental, with the option for multi-day rentals available. Athletic areas, including softball fields, a volleyball court, tennis courts, and basketball court are also available to rent. The Horowitz Pool is available to rent for pool parties during the aquatics season.

NEWHOCA PARK

The beautiful Newhoca Lodge is a beautiful place to hold meetings, baby showers, receptions, business events, memorial services, and family parties. With heating and A/C, a kitchenette, and bathrooms this picturesque lodge on Bolton Lake is our most popular rental site. Newhoca Park also has a Pavilion that is available for rent.

VALLEY FALLS PARK

Picnic groves and the Valley Falls Pavilion are available to rent at this scenic park that includes hiking trails and a lake with a small beach front.

CENTER 375

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, football table and air hockey table; Food allowed.

Fee: Residents \$35, Non-Residents \$45

Gymnasium: Holds up to 300 people; Holds up to 175 with tables; 2 Basketball hoops; No food allowed.

Fee: Residents \$50, Non-Residents \$60

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 your organization's awareness.

RECREATION BASKETBALL

In order to keep our programs affordable, the Vernon Parks and Recreation Department is actively recruiting business to sponsor youth basketball teams. Currently there are five recreational leagues with approximately 20 teams. The cost of sponsoring a recreational basketball team is \$150, which includes your business's name on the back of each team shirt, a plaque to display at your business and exposure to approximately 400 different children and adults. Please contact the Vernon Parks and Recreation Department to 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 signs left, so if you're interested, please contact Steve Krajewski at the P&R office at 860-870-3520.

Introducing Rockville High School Principal Michelle Zawawi

As of July 17, 2017, Michelle Zawawi is the Principal of Rockville High School. Michelle was formerly the Assistant Principal of Windsor Locks High School in Windsor Locks, CT for four years. Prior to holding the assistant principal position, she was a math curriculum leader for grades 6-12 in East Granby, CT and was a teacher in East Granby, CT, Westfield, MA, Springfield, MA, and served on the Board of Education in Suffield.

Michelle holds a Bachelor's of Science in Elementary Education from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, Master's of Science in Educational Leadership from the Westfield State University, in addition to an Executive Leadership Certificate from Central Connecticut State University. Michelle resides in Suffield, CT, with her husband Joe, and children John and Ally.

Michelle is looking forward to working with the Vernon community, RHS faculty, families and students to provide a high quality, personalized educational experience for all students. She is also looking forward to sharing and celebrating with the community the exciting and amazing achievements of the Rockville High School students and faculty.



Introducing Skinner Road School Principal Bryan Kerachsky

As of July 1, 2017, Bryan Kerachsky is the Principal of Skinner Road School. Bryan was formerly the Principal Haddam Elementary School in Regional School District 17 for three years, which is comprised of the towns of Haddam and Killingworth, Connecticut. Prior to holding the principal position, he held various roles with RSD 17 including, K-12 English Language Arts Coordinator and Elementary Teaching and Learning Specialist since 2009. Bryan is starting his 19th year in education, including 10 years as an elementary teacher in Tolland, CT.

Bryan holds a Bachelor's of Science in Elementary Education from the University of Hartford, a Master's of Science in Educational Technology from the University of Hartford, in addition to a Sixth Year Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Leadership from Central Connecticut State University. Bryan resides in South Windsor, CT, with his wife Nikki, and children Taelyn, Liston, Garren, and Ali.



Discovery Program - Vernon Public Schools

This summer almost 100 students from Vernon participated in a wide variety of enrichment programs at Center Road School through the "Discovery Program." Students ranging from grades Kindergarten – Grade 5 had the opportunity to sign-up for week long programs throughout

the month of July. Some of the programs included Creative Cooking, Dinosaur Discovery, Reader's Theatre, Math Olympics, Creative Writing, Egyptian Exploration, Forensic Science, and Fun in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

During the Reader's Theatre classes, students in Grades K-3 wrote their own plays, created their own props, and performed for their parents and guardians on the last day of the session. Students were so proud to show off all their hard work and preparation to their families and friends.

Another highlight came when students in the Baton Twirling and Ribbon Dance

class performed an entire dance routine for families on the last day of class.

The Discovery Program has been running during the month of July for the past 5 years. Look for registration information for next summer's exciting programs coming out in early spring 2018.



Leaf Collection Information

When will the leaf bins open?

Leaf bins will open mid-October for the convenience of residents. Contamination caused by disposal of brush, bags, grass clippings or any other debris will result in these leaf bins being shut down.

- Nye Street - At the firehouse off West Street. Bin will be marked.
- Church Street - In the bike trail parking area. Bin will be marked.
- Legion Field - Off Regan Road at rear of parking lot. Bin will be marked.

When will collection begin?

The Town of Vernon leaf program will begin Monday, November 6, 2017. Leaves should be raked to the curb by this date to ensure collection. Do not be alarmed if you see DPW crews out the week before this date. They are testing the vacuum equipment and training our temporary leaf laborers.

When will my street's leaves be collected?

All streets in the Town of Vernon have been divided into 3 groups. Group A Streets will be collected first and completed before leaf crews move on to Group B Streets and so on. This program is dependent on weather. Under good conditions, we expect to complete a group of streets in 1-2 weeks. Rain, snow or freezing temperatures will delay the program.

Do not rake leaves into the street or onto the sidewalk. This is a safety and flooding hazard as well as a violation of Ordinance No. 235, Sec. 7-20 and is punishable by a fine of \$100.

How many passes will there be this year?

All streets are guaranteed at least one pass. If time permits, there will be a second pass. Residents are at their own risk whether to wait for a second pass or to bag their leaves for pickup on either of the first two Fridays in December.

Other options?

Residents may either transport their leaves to a designated leaf bin or bag them for pickup by DPW crews. Leaves may be bagged using either the biodegradable paper bags OR plastic lawn & leaf bags.

When will bagged leaves be collected?

Bagged leaves will be collected the first two Fridays in December. Bag pickup is not automatic - please call the Public Works Office at 860-870-3500 to schedule. Leaves cannot be put out for collection with regular trash.

Please be aware of some delays that are beyond our control - leaf fall timeframe, weather conditions, holidays. "Mother Nature" plays a big role in our leaf program!

LEAF COLLECTION PROGRAM - Street Listings

GROUP A STREETS - Amy Dr, Austin Dr, Autumn Wood Ln, Bellevue Av, Berger Rd, Berkley Dr, Bette Cir, Birch Street, Blue Ridge Dr, Box Mountain Dr, Bradley Dr, Brent Dr, Bridle Path Ln, Brittany Ln, Brooklyn St, Brookside Ln, Burke Rd, Bitternut Ln, Campbell Av, Carol Dr, Carolyn Dr, Cedar St, Cemetery Av, Center Rd, Center St, Central St, Chamberlain St, Charter Rd, Chelsea Ridge, Cherry St, Christopher Dr, Church St, Cindy Ter, Clavet Pl, Cold Spring Dr, Correia Way, Country Ln, Court St, Crestridge Dr, Cross Dr, Crown St, Dart Rd, Daryl Dr, Deerfield Dr, Diane Dr, Earl St, East St, East Main St, Echo Dr, Echo Ridge Dr, Emily Dr, Eric Cir, Ertel Dr, Estelle Dr, Eudy Ct, Evergreen Rd, Fern St, First St, Foster Dr, Fox Hill Dr, Franklin St, Frederick Rd, Garden Dr, Gardener Rd, Glenn Ln, Glenstone Dr, Grady Rd, Grant St, Green Rd, Grove St, Hale St, Hale St Ext, Hammond St, Hansen Dr, Harlow St, Hartford Tpk, Heather Ln, Heidi Dr, Hemlock Dr, Hickory Hill, High St, Hillcrest Dr, Hillside Av, Hillside Manor Av, Hilltop Av, Hyde Av, Inland Dr, Jan Dr, Jonathon Dr, Kanter Dr, Kenneth Dr, Kevin Dr, King St, Kingsbury Av, Knollwood Dr, Kristyn Dr, Lake St, Laurel St, Legion Dr, Lewis St, Liberty St, Linden Pl, Lynn Dr, Maiden Ln, Maple Av, Mary Ln, McLean St, Meadowlark Rd, Michael Dr, Midland Dr, Minterburn Ct, Ogden View Dr, Old Stone Rd, Oxbow Dr, Partridge Hollow Ln, Pearl Dr, Peterson Rd, Phoenix St (north), Progress Av, Quarry Dr, Rambling Rd, Range Hill Dr, Reed St, Regan Rd, Regan St, Regina Rd, Reservoir Rd (Rt. 31), Rheel St, Richard Rd, Robert Rd, Robin Rd, Rolling View Dr, Rosewood Dr, Russel Dr, School Brook Ln, Scott Dr, Second St, Snipsic St, South Grove St, South Deerfield Dr, South St, Spruce St, Stanley St, Stone St, Strong Av, Summit Rd, Sunnyview Dr, Sunrise Dr, Sunset Av, Susan Rd, Tankerhoosen Rd, Temple St, Terrace Dr, Thomas St, Timber Ln, Tolland Av, Tower Rd, Tracy Dr, Troutstream Dr, Tumble Brook Dr, Tunnel Rd, Tunnel View Ter, Valley View Ln, Vassar St, Vernon Ctr Hts, Vernon Summit Rd, Vernon Av, Vernwood Dr, Vine Dr, Warren Av, Washington St, Wayne Rd, White St, Windermere Av, Windingbrook Trl.

GROUP B STREETS - Acorn Rd, Ahearn Dr, Allison Rd, Alpert Rd, Ann St, Bailey Ln, Bancroft Pl, Bancroft St, Barbara Rd, Becker Pl, Boulder Crest Ln, Briarwood Ln, Brighton Ln, Brimwood Dr, Brookview Dr, Bruce Dr, Butcher Rd, Cathy Dr, Chestnut St, Cottage St, Dailey Cir, Danny Trl, Dart Hill Rd, Davis Av, Davis Av Ext, Donnell Rd, Dow St,

Drigg's Rd, Eastview Dr, Edith Rd, Ellington Av, Eliot Dr, Elm Hill Rd, Elm St, Emerald Dr, Emma Ln, Eva Cir, Faith Dr, Fernwood Dr, Gaynor Pl, George Dr, Gerald Dr, Grand Av, Grandview Ter, Hamilton Dr, Hany Ln, Hartl Dr, Hayes Dr, Haylin Dr, Highland Av, Hublard Dr, Ironwood Dr, Janet Ln, Jeff Rd, Jeniffer Ln, John Dr, Kenwood Dr, Lawler Rd, Lawrence St, Leona Dr, Lily Ln, Lorraine Dr, Loveland Hill Rd, Main St, Maple St, Mark Cir, Montauk Dr, Morrison St, Morrison St Ext, Mountain St, Neil Rd, Newmarker Rd, North Park St, North View Dr, Nye St, Oak St, Old Town Rd, Olive Ln, Olson Dr, Orchard St, Overbrook Dr, Park St, Penfield Dr, Phoenix St (south), Pillsbury Hill #1, Pillsbury Hill #2, Pine St, Pinewood Dr, Pinnacle Rd, Pleasant St, Pleasantview Dr, Prospect St, Quail Crossing, Rainbow Trl, Rau St, Rau St Ext, Raymond St, Ridgewood Dr, Risley Rd, River St, Riverside Dr, St. Bernard's Terrace, School St, Skinner Rd, Spring St, Sunset Ter, Talcott Av, Talcottville Rd, Tallwood Dr, Taylor St, Thompson St, Thompson Ct, Thrall Rd, Trumble St, Tyler Knoll, Union St, Valerie Dr, Village St, Wappingwood Rd, Ward St, Watson Rd, Webster St, Welles

Rd, Wellwood Cir, Werner Dr, West St, West Main St, Westwood Dr, Willow Stream Dr, Wilson Ln, Windsor Av, Windsorville Rd, Wolcott Ln, Woodland St, Worcester Rd.

GROUP C STREETS - Allan Dr, Anchorage Rd, Baker Rd, Bamforth Rd, Beechwood Rd, Beverly Rd, Bolton Rd, Boxwood Dr, Brandy Hill Rd, Castlewood Dr, Cemetery Rd, Claire Rd, Crest Dr, Cubles Dr, Deepwood Dr, Discovery Rd, Dobson Rd, Dockerel Rd, Duncaster Ln, Eleanor St, Eleanor St Ext, Forestview Dr, Foxcroft Rd, Gottier Dr, Grier Rd, Harriet St, Hatch Hill Rd, Howard Dr, Huntington Dr, Indian Trail, Irene Dr, Juniper Ln, Lakeview Dr, Laurel Rd, Llynwood Dr, Marjorie Ln, Maxwell Dr, Merline Rd, Miller Rd, Miriam Dr, Oakmoor Dr, Old Dobson Rd, Patricia Dr, Pineview Dr, Pitkin Rd, Ravens Croft, Reservoir Rd, Seneca Dr, Sunningdale Ln, Sutton Dr, Sycamore Rd, Tamarack Ln, Tiffin Dr, Tobias Ct, Valley Falls Rd, Vernon School Rd, Vinetta Dr, Walker Ter, Wheeler Rd, Wildwood Rd, Wildwood Rd So, Wilshire Dr, Wilshire Rd, Zoey Dr.

Update on the Road Bond

The Department of Public Works has once again been busy performing pavement maintenance on our Town roads. Funded through the 2014 Road Bond Project, our activities seek to renew roads that have exceeded their useful life and preserve satisfactory roads to extend their serviceable life. The techniques used this year have included full depth reclamation and surface milling/paving.

In all, over thirteen (13) miles of town roads were completed this year bringing our total since the start of the program to over sixty five (65) miles reconstructed or resurfaced. This represents almost sixty percent of all Town owned roads.

This winter, DPW staff will review the two years of work remaining. They will work with our utility companies to accommodate upgrades to service and develop next year's work list. They will also assess streets that are not listed on the bond and may seek to add them to the program if conditions warrant their inclusion.

The program has consistently achieved savings which has allowed the Town Council to add roads on a yearly basis which had not originally been included in the program but have been identified as needing repairs.

Robert J. Kleinhans, Director

RECYCLING TIP CARDBOARD

Over 85% of all products that are sold in the United States | are packed in cardboard. That's a LOT of cardboard!

The Vernon Public Works Department requests that any cardboard which is thicker in nature be first flattened out and unfolded before placing in the recycling cart. If possible, cardboard may be cut into smaller pieces as well to avoid smaller recyclables being jammed in the bottom of the cart.

Flattened cardboard will take up less space leaving more room for other recyclables.

Robert J. Kleinhans, Director

Water Pollution Control Authority



In any given day ~3 million gallons of sewage flows to the Town of Vernon Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) for treatment. Evolving from its historical roots in the era of mills and sand tricking beds of the 1800s, sewage treatment has become more complex, sophisticated, and regulated. Vernon's treatment facility is old. While the expected life span for a modern treatment plant is twenty years, Vernon's plant is a mix of components

ranging from 25-40 years old. Age isn't the only story. The State of Connecticut mandated the Vernon plant meet new environmental standards by 2021 - including 94% reductions in phosphorus and 54% reductions in nitrogen discharges. What does this mean? It's time for an upgrade.

The upgrade process isn't without challenges, costs, and opportunities. Meeting some of the most stringent standards statewide is only part of the story. Town compliance with a statutory July 2019 deadline for beginning construction secures eligibility for 50% and 30% relative grants for phosphorous and nitrogen improvements, and an estimated overall project reimbursement of 28%. As a regional facility, other contributing towns will fund nearly 30% of remaining costs. Failure to complete improvements by 2021

will result in significant, daily fines. Upgrades also provide immediate operational and budgetary improvements; improving the environment and extending the life of the plant for at least twenty years. Immediately there will be energy and operational savings, as well as ~\$110,000 annual savings associated with present nitrogen fees - fees projected to escalate and cost Vernon more than \$5 million dollars by 2040. To date, Vernon has completed the facility plan study of the WPCF (funded by a State 55% grant, and contributing Towns), and recently began the 18 month engineering process to meet the rapidly approaching 2019 deadlines. So the next time you go, know we have your flow.

*Article written by: Matt Daskal
Director Robert Grasis*

The Vernon Chorale: Choosing Our New Conducting Fellow



New Conducting Fellow Liz Bologna.
Photo by Steve Laurie

What distinguishes Vernon's own chorale from other area community choirs and groups? The Vernon Chorale commits to fostering young talent through its Fellowship Programs. Over the past decade the Chorale's Conducting Fellowship evolved from word-of-mouth recommendations for an assistant conductor to the excellent teaching tool it is today. The program aims to sharpen skills of aspiring conductors both in concert preparation and performance in a practical setting. Throughout the season, the Fellow is guided by the Artistic Director and plans and conducts the Chorale's June concert.

Because of the program's rise in popularity, the pool of local candidates has widened, the number of applicants increased, and a formal application process put into place. Another key factor is a conductor willing to share the podium in order to cultivate the next generation of local talent, and a group of choral singers willing to support the Fellow's growth. The Vernon Chorale is proud of retaining both. Ehren Brown, current Artistic Director, honed his skills under the program.

The Chorale is excited to welcome Vernon resident and 2005 Rockville High School graduate, Liz Bologna, as their 2017-2018 Conducting Fellow. Growing up, Bologna watched her parents sing with the Chorale and is no stranger to the group. In 2006-2009 she was a Choral Fellow, another Fellowship for young aspiring singers, and continued singing with the group through 2011. When asked what excites her most about her role as Conducting Fellow she replied, "I'm humbled to be a part of the Vernon Chorale's legacy of bringing great choral music to the community." Both Brown and Bologna exemplify the Fellowship's unique ability to give back to the community by contributing to future conductors, thereby furthering both performance and appreciation of choral music in the Vernon area.

The Chorale's Winter concert is Saturday, December 9, 7:30 pm at St. Bernard Church in Rockville. Visit VernonChorale.org for upcoming performances. Member Vernon Volunteers' Collaborative.

Vernon Youth Services Bureau

YSB SUMMER 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

It was a very eventful and fun summer at the Vernon Youth Services Bureau! The YSB Summer program and summer nutrition program were in full swing. Below are some summer highlights featuring the YSB Summer fun Club!



The YSB Summer Fun Club led by YSB Youth Counselor Ozzie Ramos, was a special place for 30 elementary school aged children this summer. Each day children enjoyed a nutritious lunch in the Park and spent the afternoon engaged in a variety of activities, including, field trips, swimming, playing games, arts and crafts, visits from guest speakers, reading, writing, and more!



The YSB Summer program also benefitted from two teen volunteers in our Community who built positive relationships with the children and served as excellent role models.

Program highlights include a special visit from Mayor Champagne who was a special guest speaker, an afternoon of bowling and ice cream, a trip to Nomads, picking out and reading books from the Vernon Book Mobile, swimming at Henry park pool, and a trip to Quassy Amusement park. Here is a peek!

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

This past summer YSB ran the Sumer Food Service program, which provided free lunches to any youth 18 years and younger at three open lunch sites. Nutritious lunches were served at Talcott Park, Park West, and Henry Park from 11:45 am-12:30 pm Monday – Friday, where we served an average of 130-150 lunches each day. The program was offered from June 19- August 25.

In addition to lunch, each site has a program space, play area, or pool where children enjoyed time interacting and playing with friends. The Summer Book Mobile regularly visited each site to provide books and encourage summer reading. Providing nutritious meals and keeping children engaged over the summer supports children's learning and positive development.

The Summer Food Service program is a federally funded program and our partners are: State Department of Education, Vernon Parks and Recreation, Park West Apartments and Vernon Public Schools.

The YSB is grateful to the town of Vernon and the community for its continuous support for our programs!



Vernon Senior Center

Vernon Senior Center

26 Park Place / 860-870-3680

Hours: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, Monday – Friday

Welcome to the Vernon Senior Center! To view our monthly newsletter and calendar, go to the Town of Vernon's website, www.vernon-ct.gov, click on the Departments, then the Senior Center and follow the prompts.



Members of the Vernon Senior Center Advisory Committee sold Bake Goods & Snacks at the "July in the Sky" event to raise money for the NEW Vernon Senior Center.

Be sure to sign-up for some of these exciting upcoming events:

The Celebration of Song – Friday, Sept. 15th at 2:00 pm. John Root will be here to sing and play flute, clarinet, and the saxophone. This event is free. Please call to register.

Lucy Ferriss, a local author, will be coming to the Center to talk about her new book "A Sister to Honor," on Thursday, Sept. 21st at 10:00 am, during the Book Club. We recommend that you read the book before the discussion with the author. Books are available at the center for purchase. This activity is open to all seniors. Please call to register.

Hill-Stead Museum – Tuesday, Oct. 10th. Hill-Stead is the first architectural project of Theodate Pope Riddle, built in 1901. This museum houses some of the most important Impressionist paintings in the world, including works by Mary Cassat, Edgar Degas, Edouard Manet, Claud Monet and James McNeill Whistler. Cost: \$11 per person. This includes the transportation, the tour and a brown bag lunch. We will be picking up at all the same stops as on the shopping day. Please call to register.

events online

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go to

eventsmagazines.com

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Town of Vernon Fire Department

Part 3 of a 3 Part Series on the history of the Town of Vernon Fire Department.

Two Fire Departments in Vernon?

(Excerpts from an original article written by Richard Bowman) Prior to 1979 Vernon



had two fire departments: The Vernon Fire District and The Rockville Fire Department. The Vernon Fire District was formed in the 1940s to meet the needs of rural Vernon. The Rockville Fire Department was formed in the 1800s to meet the needs of the more industrialized Rockville section of Vernon. Each department had its

own Chief, Officers, geographical boundaries, and methods of operation.

Even though the general government (Town Council, Board of Education, Police Department, Public Works, etc.) was consolidated in 1964 the fire departments were not. In the early 1970s firefighters, government leaders, and the community began to talk about the need for one fire department. One person said at the time "That's like asking the Red Sox and the Yankees to form one team! You'll never do that."

A by-laws committee was formed consisting of firefighters from both departments. It was clear that in order to serve the needs of the town a pooling of resources, and the volunteers, needed to happen. Long hours of difficult negotiations took place. Years of tradition had to be respected. The name of the new department had to show no favoritism toward either department. After many months of meetings and soul searching a new fire department was born! The Town of Vernon Fire Department became

a reality. Out of the two old departments came one Fire Chief, a fire marshal and a single department made up of all volunteers.

In the 38 years since 1979 the needs of Vernon have changed and the new department has grown with it. It is an excellent and modern emergency service. But the one thing that has not changed since 1855 is the dedication and commitment of the volunteers. The memory of one town with two fire departments is now just a fond memory.

Learn more about us and come join our volunteer family... www.vernonfire.com.



Compassionate & Caring



The Caring Funeral Directors at Pietras Funeral Homes provide specialized Funeral Services designed to meet the needs of each family. Our professional dedicated staff will assist you in making funeral service arrangements. We will guide you through all aspects of the funeral, from pre-need planning, casket options, cremations, flowers to local accommodations. Feel free to contact one of our licensed funeral directors at any time... Philip & Jessica Pietras, Jennifer A. West, Jacqueline L. Teske, Corrine M. Jones, and Haley S. Bohndik.

We are here to help you with any questions you may have.

Email: pietrasfhs@att.net



Burke-Fortin Funeral Home
76 Prospect St.
Rockville-Vernon CT
860-875-5490

Small & Pietras Funeral Home
65 Elm St.
Rockville-Vernon CT
860-875-0703

Tolland Memorial Funeral Home
375 Merrow Rd.
Tolland CT
860-875-1415

Coventry-Pietras Funeral Home
2665 Boston Tpk. (Rte 44)
Coventry CT
860-742-1255

Bassinger & Dowd Funeral Home
37 Gardner St.
East Windsor CT
860-623-4292

Water Pollution Control

Two Rockville High School students, Trevor Jones and Adam Fraiko, recently donated a steel American flag they constructed for a school project to the Vernon Police Department.

Trevor and Adam, both students from Caitlin Hoffman's sophomore English class at the time, were assigned to create something for an organization to show their appreciation. Trevor and Alex chose to create an American flag for the Vernon Police Department in recognition for "all the work they do to keep us safe in this town."

Trevor and Adam obtained flat steel scrap metal from John's Scrap Metal in Columbia. Using an angle grinder and mig welder, they built a frame for the flag. They proceeded to use a plasma cutter to cut out 13 individual strips and custom bent each one to create the illusion of the flag blowing in the wind.

After welding the strips to the frame and smoothing it out with a grinder, Trevor and Alex sawed off the brass ends of 50 empty shotgun shell casings and glued them to the square portion of the flag to represent the stars. After 20 hours of construction and multiple layers of paint, the students' final project weighed over 30 pounds.

On July 5th, in the presence of nearly every officer, Jones and his parents presented their flag to the Vernon Police Department.



Their accomplishment was well received, and the officers were impressed with the detail, effort, and consideration the students put into their project.

The flag will be displayed in the lobby of the Vernon Police Department and accompanied by a plaque with the students' names. Hoffman stated they received an A for their project.



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Wreaths Across America

On Saturday December, 16th, 2017 members of the community will gather together to honor veterans during the holiday season as part of the annual Wreaths Across America Day.

The Vernon Cemetery Commission will conduct the ceremony this year at Lugg Field, the Veterans Section at Grove Hill Cemetery on Saturday December 16th starting at 12:00 noon. Seven ceremonial wreaths will be placed to remember all soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who served, honor their sacrifices, and teach our younger generations about the high cost of our freedoms.

Specially designated wreaths for the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, and POW/MIA will be placed during the ceremony that will be coordinated simultaneously at over 1,000 participating locations all across the Country.

Sponsorship of individual wreaths is not accepted at this site. The cemetery is located off of Grove Street in the Rockville section of town.

It is projected that around a million wreaths will be placed nationwide, by over 600,000 volunteers as part of the Wreaths Across America mission to Remember, Honor, and Teach.

Wreaths across America TM is a national nonprofit organization founded in 2007 to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman, Morrill Worcester, in 1992. One interesting fact is that Mr. Worcester attended Rockville High School for a brief period in his youth.

For more information, please visit:
www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org or contact the cemetery office for more details at 860-875-3158.

Visit our website at
<http://www.vernon-ct.gov/>

It is a useful tool to find updated information and explore our wonderful community!

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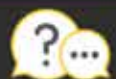
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Vernon Garden Club Scholarship Winner

Nathan Schlipfack of Vernon was awarded the Vernon Garden Club Scholarship on June 19, 2017 at the annual picnic held at the First Congregational Church of Vernon. Pictured with Nathan on the left is Vernon Garden Club Scholarship Chairman, Kay Varga and on the right, Betty Wardrop, President. Nathan will be going to UConn's Avery Point Campus in the fall majoring in Marine Biology. Nathan just started his summer job working as a counselor for children attending Valley Falls.

Vernon Garden Club of Vernon members host an annual spring plant sale in May with proceeds from the sale being used to fund the club's scholarship award, as well as sponsoring the Junior Gardener's Program and maintaining the club's two community gardens.

Gardeners, new and seasoned, are invited to join the club this fall, enjoy new friendships, educational opportunities, gardening in the community, and fun trips. The club meets the 3rd Monday of each month. Our first fall meeting will be September 18, 2017 at 7:00 pm at First Congregational Church of Vernon. Items from members (gifts from the garden) will be auctioned off and then refreshments are served. Guests and potential new members are welcome to stay through the entire meeting. See you there!



The "At-Risk Boys Fund"

Through the Community Foundation, the At-Risk Boys Fund has provided grants that have helped sixth-grade boys find their self-worth and success in school. The fund helped teenage boys and police build positive interaction instead of skills

confrontation. The fund has even provided temporary shelter for boys and their families. These are just some examples of how the At-Risk Boys Fund and the people who support it have improved the lives of boys and young men throughout Middlesex County.

You too can help at-risk boys when you attend the At-Risk Boys Fund's biggest fundraising event of the year – the third annual Cruise Blues & Brews Festival on Saturday, September 30th from 10 am to 4 pm at the Chester Fair Grounds.

You and your family will enjoy a great fall festival and you will be helping the At-Risk Boys Fund do its incredible work assisting boys and young men to achieve a better life.

How many boys we can help is up to you.

By Bill Guerra, Volunteer Chair
At-Risk Boys Fundraising Committee

Festival Details:
3rd Annual Cruise Blues & Brews, Saturday September 30 at the Chester Fair Grounds from 10 am to 4 pm (rain date October 1st). A fun-filled family event featuring antique and unique cars, the area's top blues bands, craft beer, up-scale food trucks, marketplace of vendors, kids play area, games, prizes and surprises. For additional information and to purchase tickets at \$5 (kids under 12 free) go to www.atriskboysfund.org.

All proceeds benefit the At-Risk Boys Fund at the Community Foundation of Middlesex County.

Vernon Education Foundation: School Projects

The end of each school year is a very busy time for the Vernon Education Foundation (VEF). Early in June the VEF distributed new books to each of the 239 first grade students in the Vernon Public Schools. This has been an annual project for the past 14 years where over 3,000 books have been given to students at the completion of first grade. It is hoped that these books will add to or start their own personal library at home.



In addition to the *Book of My Own* project the VEF will award \$4,200 in Mini-Grants to teachers at Lake Street School, Center Road School, Skinner Road School and Rockville High School. The VEF received 17 applications this year for the grant program. Nine grants were awarded and the finalists will be publicly announced at the *Welcome Back Convocation* at the end of August. All grants were awarded for innovative programs that help to strengthen the educational objectives of the schools.



VEF is a state and federally registered, tax-exempt, non-profit (501-c-3) corporation managed by local volunteers. Its mission is to enhance the quality of education in Vernon. Please visit us on Facebook at Facebook.com/VernonEdFoundation. Member Vernon Volunteers' Collaborative.

Photographer: Fred Arzt

Photo on left: VEF Vice President Cheryl Arzt distributes books.

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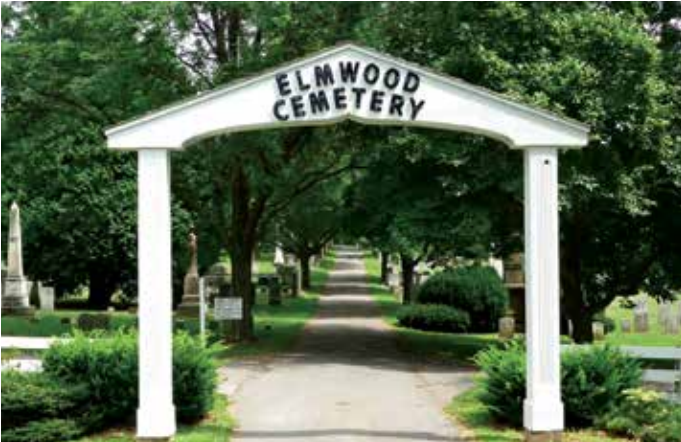


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VVC Fall Events: Hiking, History, Farm Festival, Music and Arts



Vernon Center's Elmwood Cemetery
Photo by Jon Roe

Fall is the season to enjoy the outdoors and Vernon Volunteers' Collaborative (VVC) organizations have many opportunities to do that; but offer many other choices too.

Vernon Center Walk - Sep. 24 (Sun)

Vernon Historical Society's 'Early Vernon Center: First Congregational Church, Elmwood Cemetery & Meetinghouse Hill' walk takes you through three historic sites. 1 pm. Rain date Sunday, Oct. 8.

Friends of Valley Falls Annual Meeting - Sep. 24 (Sun)

Paul Colburn will present on 'Coyotes' at the Friends Annual Meeting, 1 pm at Valley Falls Farm.

Talcott Ravine History & Geology Walk - Oct. 14 (Sat.)

This popular three-mile Northern CT Land Trust walk begins in

historic Talcottville and includes a loop through Talcott Ravine before returning on the Rail Trail. 1 pm.

Webster Preserve Hike - Oct. 15 (Sun.)

The Northern CT Land Trust leads this hike off Valley Falls Road. Hike through the Trust's Andrew Webster Knapp property above the Rail-Trail, then up to the ridge overlooking Valley Falls Park and Railroad Brook for some beautiful scenery. 9 am at Valley Falls Park.

Farm Harvest Festival - Oct. 21 (Sat.)

The annual Strong Family Farm festival includes children's activities, pumpkin decorating, and the farm's annual scarecrow contest. Apple sales, hay bale maze, animals, vendors, music and a farewell to the farm's summer chickens. 10 am-2 pm.

The Vernon Chorale Winter Concert - Dec. 9 (Sat.)

The Vernon Chorale holds its Winter Concert in Rockville at St. Bernard Church, 7:30 pm.

Monthly Arts Center East Events

Each month ACE offers five nights just for fun: Create a drawing on Sketch Night, be an actor on Improv Night, relax and create on Zentangle Night, share your love of reading on Book Night, and release your inner Van Gogh on Paint Night. See ArtsCenterEast.org for detail and dates.

To learn more about these events visit VernonVolunteers.org. To receive email announcements join our MeetUp group. Learn how on our website.



Overlooking Valley Falls Park and Railroad Brook.
Photo by Jon Roe

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