

# Vernon events

VOLUME 1 • QUARTER 4 • 2015



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# The Mayor's Corner

Thanksgiving is here and winter is fast approaching. This issues articles are a great resource for programs and ordinances relative to overnight parking, snow and leaf removal, as well as programs and events during the winter season such as, Wreaths Across America.

On December 4, 2015 at 6:00 PM the Town of Vernon will celebrate Winterfest with the kick-off of the annual light parade and the lighting of the Town of Vernon Christmas Tree. New to the event this year is the re-introduction of the Santa House. In addition to December 4, 2015, Santa's House will be open on Saturdays and Sundays during December so that children can visit and speak with Santa. Please join Santa and I for this wonderful event!

In the last issue of Events Magazine I shared with you some of the wonderful things in process here in Vernon. As an update, this year's road projects are complete, the property at 19 Grove Street has been cleared of all the old buildings and is being prepared for the construction of the new park in the spring. Our mill properties are moving forward as well. The Town is working with an environmental remediation company to develop a plan to clean up the Amerbelle campus, remediation and demolition of some structures should begin in the coming months; the Talcott Mill is moving forward and construction should begin soon. The old Roosevelt Mill, now known as "Loom City Lofts"

had its grand opening and ribbon cutting at the end of October and is accepting applications for tenants. Take a moment and check out the LoomCityLofts.com website for more information.

We are still actively looking for board and commission volunteers. Please check out our website under "Boards and Commissions" for our present openings. Boards and Commissions need to conduct meetings and without sufficient membership their business is at risk! Please consider participating, the Town of Vernon needs you!

Additional information regarding these and other issues and programs can be viewed on our Town of Vernon website: [vernon-ct.gov](http://vernon-ct.gov) or by calling Administration 860-870-3601.

Thank you to Cindy Fagan for her cover photo submission. Anyone wishing to submit a cover photograph of a landscape or building within the Town of Vernon please do so to [dwheelock@vernon-ct.gov](mailto:dwheelock@vernon-ct.gov). All photographs submitted must be high resolution (300 dpi, and 7.5" wide X 9.5" high, in the portrait format).

I wish all residents a Happy Thanksgiving Holiday Season!



Mayor Daniel A. Champagne



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# Wreaths Across America at Grove Hill Cemetery on December 12

The Vernon Cemetery Commission will again participate in the Wreaths Across America ceremony on Saturday, December 12 at 12:00 noon at Lugg Veterans Field in Grove Hill Cemetery. Ceremonial wreaths representing all the branches of service and the Prisoner of War will be placed at the field. Service flags will accompany each wreath as they are placed.

The tradition of laying wreaths to honor our veterans during the holiday season began in 1992 when Morrill Worcester of the Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine was stuck with a number of extra wreaths at the close of the holiday season. Remembering a boyhood trip to the Nation's Capital and the sacred grounds of Arlington National Cemetery, he donated 5,000 wreaths to be placed at the headstones of an older section of the cemetery.

What began as one man's gesture has now grown into a national movement when in 2006 Wreaths Across America was formed as a non-profit. As part of the annual ceremonies, wreath-laying events at over 500 participating locations are held across the country and the world to show our gratitude and appreciation during the holiday season. Help us Remember, Honor, and Teach – by thanking a veteran. For more information visit: [www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org](http://www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org)



## Ski & Board Sale

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# Vernon's Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.)

by Dianne Sheridan and Michael Purcaro

## Office of Emergency and Risk Management



Vernon's Community Emergency Response Team or C.E.R.T. is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. Our C.E.R.T. program educates

residents about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact our area and trains residents in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

Twenty hours of formal C.E.R.T. training is available for free to residents who are interested in joining the Vernon team. Residents who have gone through the C.E.R.T. training have a better understanding of the potential threats to our community and have taken the right steps to lessen the effects of these hazards on themselves, their homes, and their workplaces.



In times of disaster, when our local response capabilities have become overwhelmed, C.E.R.T. members have stepped-up to play an integral role in supporting our emergency

operations. By effectively applying their training and by executing their plans they have proven to be an invaluable resource to our community. Equally as important, our C.E.R.T. members are busy participating in non-emergency projects and events that have improved the overall safety of our community.

For more information about C.E.R.T., please go to <http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/> or email [vernoncert@yahoo.com](mailto:vernoncert@yahoo.com).

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# events

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Cindy Fagan

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## IMPORTANT NOTICE!

### Holiday Hours Vernon Town Hall

- December 23 / 8:30 am – 7:00 pm
- December 24 / 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
- December 25 / CLOSED
- December 30 / 8:30 am – 7:00 pm
- December 31 / 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
- January 1, 2016 / CLOSED

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- 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*

*Physician Assistant who conducts medical exams, diagnoses and treats illnesses, orders and interprets tests and assists in surgery*

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**WHAT OUR PATIENTS SAY...**

*"Dr. Veltri performed an ACL replacement on my knee. 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 H., Ellington*

### ■ OUR LOCATIONS

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# Building Memories

Joy, wonder and excitement are just a few words used to describe the expressions of those faces remembering Santa's house. What started out as an idea on social media, has brought a group of "grown-up" Rockville children together to make this memory a reality once again. With the support of Mayor Dan Champange,



the Rockville Downtown Association, several local businesses and many generous private donations, this group has begun to build a Santa house beyond all imagination! When asking the members of the group what has driven them to devote so much time and energy to this project, their replies were these.

"This is what a community is all about and I look forward to our Santa house being a part of Winterfest for years to come."  
- Mike Wendus

"I remember how excited I was to see Santa and to tell him I had been a VERY good girl. I can't wait to see that excitement on all of those little faces!" - Darcy Desmond

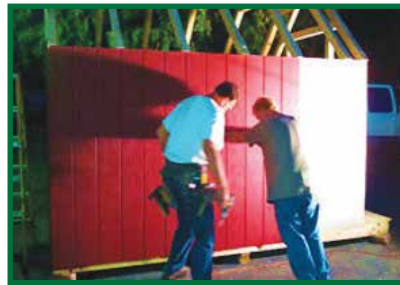
"To bring back to our town, to its childhood of all ages, the joy of Christmas memories, past and future." - Pete Desmond



"I like being a part of building something that will pull Rockville together as a community again." - Jennifer Schaefer Holt

"I can see by the enthusiastic attitude of everybody, that this will be a tradition that will be around a very long time." - Bernie Kelly

"I wanted to build the Santa house for my grandchildren and the other children." - Larry Light



The group would also like to send special thanks to Mr. Dennis Gessay, his son Brett Gessay, Chris Desmond, Mark Hall, and Teresa VanOudenhove for donating their time, skill and creativity to make this a Santa house for all ages!

We look forward to seeing you all at Winterfest 2015!!!



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## Russell G. Hartmann Memorial Pavilion



The Russell G. Hartmann Memorial Pavilion was dedicated on Thursday June 18, 2015 in Henry Park. Mayor Daniel Champagne officiated the ceremony.

This was given in appreciation and gratitude to the community for their support and patronage to Hartmann's Super Market.

Russell started out selling meats and groceries while driving the truck for his father's corner grocery store. After serving in WWII from 1942-1946, he met his wife Delphine and they worked side by side to expand the corner store into Hartmann's Super Market in 1956. The store was known for its personal, friendly service to customers as well as its quality meats, produce, and deli. Russell continued to grow the business and support the community until his retirement in 1990. He also served on the boards of many local businesses and partnered to develop other businesses in the area.

The Hartmann Family Foundation, started by Russell and Delphine in 1990, has contributed to Local and National charities.

Russell's love for his family, employees, and community lives on through this pavilion.

## Friends of the Vernon Arts Commission

The town of Vernon established the Vernon Arts Commission (VAC) in 1976. For nearly 40 years, the VAC supports and facilitates many cultural programs and projects for the community. During this time of holiday giving, the VAC encourages Vernon residents to promote arts and culture in our community through giving of their time, as well as financial resources.

The Vernon Arts Commission needs new members! Currently the Vernon Arts Commission seeks applicants to fill vacancies so that the Commission can operate with a governing membership of five Commissioners and two Alternate Commissioners. The VAC also welcomes anyone who is interested in planning arts and cultural programming for the

town of Vernon to join as Associate Commissioners. The VAC meets on the first Monday of each month to discuss funding proposals from many Vernon non-profit organizations, public schools, and individual artists. Additionally, new arts initiatives are discussed and implemented. The following organizations benefit from VAC funding: Arts Center East (formerly Vernon Community Arts Center), the Vernon Chorale, Rockville Community Alliance, Friends of Valley Falls, Vernon Greenways/Rails to Trails and the Vernon public schools.

Vernon residents can contribute financially to the Vernon Arts Commission by becoming a member of the Friends of the Vernon Arts Commission (FVAC). A financial contribution ranging between

\$15 - \$50 supplements the funding the Vernon Arts Commission receives from the town of Vernon, enabling the VAC to provide financial support for more arts and cultural events in the town of Vernon.

For more information, visit the Vernon Arts Commission websites: [VACVernonct.tripod.com](http://VACVernonct.tripod.com) or [VACVernonct.tripod.com/friends-of-vac-fvac.html](http://VACVernonct.tripod.com/friends-of-vac-fvac.html)

The Vernon Arts Commission invites anyone who is interested in promoting arts and culturally programming for the benefit of Vernon residents to join the VAC and FVAC. Member Vernon Volunteers' Collaborative.

## New Director of Food and Nutrition Services



Vernon Public Schools welcomes Mr. Paul Olson as the new Director of Food and Nutrition Services. Mr. Olson is a food service professional with over 20 years of experience in the hospitality industry. After owning his own multi-unit restaurant company, Paul moved on to hold director positions at the University of Hartford, American International College, and most recently at Yale New Haven Hospital.

He currently resides in Cheshire with his wife Jennifer, a school principal in Derby, and his 3 children.

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## VERNON TOWN DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY

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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

## Some Winter Tips

- Put good snow tires on your car and keep a shovel in your trunk.
- Drive courteously according to road conditions and watch out for the safety of pedestrians.
- Pay close attention to weather forecasts.
- Keep refuse and recycling carts out of harm's way. Storm conditions can sometimes bring high winds that can toss cans into the road.
- Keep hands out of snow blowers.
- Deposit snow to the right side of the driveway (facing the road) to prevent it from being pushed back into the driveway.
- Clean walks after the final pass of the plows.

### HELP US HELP YOU

- Please do not leave your vehicle on the street during snow or ice storms.
- Please limit travel to trips that are absolutely necessary.
- Please do not place snow into streets. Remember, you are responsible for your contractor's actions.
- Please keep a safe, minimum distance of 50 feet back from snow control vehicles.
- Please keep your mailbox 42" above the curb and slightly back from the edge of pavement and keep the post and hardware in good repair.
- Please remove all basketball hoops for the winter months to prevent damage to equipment and reduce liability.
- Keep refuse and recycling carts at the edge of the driveway, NOT in the roadway.

## Adam Libros Town of Vernon Fire Marshal

On May 7, 2015 the latest CT Fire Prevention Code (CFPC) was adopted. There is a new section within the CFPC that regulates cooking equipment as follows:

Sec. 10.11.6.1: For other than one- and two-family dwellings, no hibachi, grill, or other similar devices used for cooking, heating, or any other purpose shall be used or kindled on any balcony, under any overhanging portion, or within 10 feet of any structure.

Sec. 10.11.6.2: For other than one-and two-family dwellings, no hibachi, grill, or other similar devices used for cooking shall be stored on a balcony.

Sec. 10.11.6.3: Listed equipment permanently installed in accordance with its listing, applicable codes, and manufacturer's instructions shall be permitted.

If you are unsure if your building shall comply with this new requirement, please contact the Office of the Fire Marshal at 860-870-3652 for assistance.

# Vernon Parks & Recreation Department

New website & registration site! [www.VernonRec.org](http://www.VernonRec.org)

Be sure to visit the site, create a household account and register for a program right there!

## STAFF DIRECTORY

General..... 860-870-3520	Recreation Supervisor..... Amy Locandro Watt	Park Maintainer..... Rob Arthur
Director..... Bruce Dinnie	Park Foreman..... Mark Dziejdzinski	Park Maintainer..... Kevin Clements
Assistant Director..... Steve Krajewski	Park Maintainer..... Mitch Reid	Park Maintainer..... Nick Wheelock
Recreation Supervisor..... Rich Durkee	Park Maintainer..... Mark Lucas	Park Maintainer..... Nick Petrolito

## FREQUENTLY REQUESTED NUMBERS

Rockville Little League / Jason Hahn..... 860-982-6783	Over 55 Softball / Bob Lathrop..... 860-614-1421
Vernon Youth Baseball Org / Marc Collins ..... 860-256-7200	Vernon Orioles / Steve Krajewski..... 860-870-3520
Girls' Little League Softball / Rob Silver ..... 860-729-6961	Junior Women's Club / Nancy Carter ..... 860-989-3170
Vernon Youth Soccer / Jeff Parizeau ..... 860-948-0422	Vernon Animal Control ..... 860-870-3558
Youth Hockey / Jim Larza..... 860-529-5295	Indian Valley Y.M.C.A. .... 860-872-7329
Boys Youth Lacrosse / Bruce Gezelman ..... 860-870-9461	Vernon Youth Football <a href="http://www.vernonyouthfootball.com">www.vernonyouthfootball.com</a>
Girls Youth Lacrosse / Jim Peters ..... 860-966-7589	

## Registration And General Information

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

## Insurance

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

## ADA

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

## Classes

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

## Payment

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

## Refunds

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

## Inclement Weather

In the case of inclement weather, the Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to cancel programs for the day. All decisions on programs will be made by 4:00 p.m. unless your program starts earlier. A decision will be made by 9:00 a.m. for weekend and morning programs. Please contact the Recreation Office at 860-870-3520. The Department will attempt to post any program cancellation information on 1080AM and WFSB Channel 3.

## Scholarship Programs

It is our policy that residents of Vernon who cannot afford to participate in programs or activities can make confidential inquiries for assistance to Bruce Dinnie, Director of Parks and Recreation (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](http://www.flickr.com/photos/vernonpr)

Continued on page 10

## **Parks & Recreation, continued from page 9...**

### **PRESCHOOL & YOUTH PROGRAMS**

#### **Move 'N' Grove \*New Program\***

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 months. Parent participation is required. Participants will play fun games, sing songs, learn musical instruments and start learning rhythm and beats. NOTE: classes will be held continuously in 4 week sessions.

Begins January 7, Thursdays 10:30-11:15am

Vernon Teen Center Dance Room

Fee: \$35 for 4 weeks

#### **Preschool Fitness**

Get your little ones on their feet and ready to have some fun! This program is for children ages 3-5yrs old. Participants will play fun games with hoola hoops, parachutes, sing songs, skip, jump and much more. This class will help your child develop motor, listening and social skills. NOTE: this is now a 4-week program in the winter. Will be held continuously in 4 week sessions.

Friday Mornings 9:30-10:15am, January 15-Feb 5 (no class 1/30)

Vernon Teen Center Fitness Room

Fee: Residents \$30.00 / Non-Residents \$35.00

#### **Ninja Karate**



This karate program is for children PreK-5th Gr. The Parks & Rec Dept and Hidden Dragon Karate will be offering a Karate program with a new name and new location! Ninja Karate will be a combination of karate and physical fitness training to enhance focus, self-control and discipline. Classes will be held at the Hidden Dragon Vernon Dojo. NOTE: classes will be held continuously in 5 week sessions. For details on the program call Hidden Dragons at 860-870-7067.

Wednesdays 4:30-5pm, January 6-February 3

Hidden Dragon Dojo, 458 Talcottville Road (Rt 83)

Fee: \$45 Residents / \$50 Non-Residents

#### **Pee Wee Basketball**

An instructional coed program for 3-5 year olds. Participants 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.

December 19 to February 20, 11:15am-12:00pm  
(no class 12/26 & 1/2)

Participants receive a T-shirt. Ages 3-5 years old

Center 375 Gym

Residents \$40 / Non-residents \$45

#### **Grade K-1 Junior League Basketball**

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 will receive a T-shirt. This is an eight week program.

December 19 to February 20 9:00am-9:55am, 10:00am-10:55am  
(no class 12/26 & 1/2)

Grades K&1, Center 375 Gym

Resident \$40 / Non-resident \$45

#### **Grade 2 Beginners League Basketball**

Full court basketball games are introduced in this instructional format. Volunteer coaches and staff will provide a combo of instructional drills and controlled scrimmages. Participants will receive a T-shirt. This is an eight week program with a rotating schedule. Each team will have a practice/game for ONE hour each week. Schedules will be provided on the first day.

December 19 to February 20 12:30pm-2:45pm

(no class 12/26 & 1/2) Coed, Grade 2, Center 375 Gym

Resident \$40 / Non-resident \$45

#### **Grade 3 & 4 Basketball**

Full court basketball games are introduced in this instructional format. Practices will take place for an hour one day a week.

Instructional games will take place Saturdays. Participants will receive a T-shirt. This is an eight week program.

December 19 to February 20 (no class 12/26 & 1/2)

Coed, grade 3&4

Resident \$50/Non-resident \$55

#### **Boys & Girls Recreation League Play**



Develop your basketball skills while you become a team player in this league program. Participants will be placed on a team and will be coached by volunteers. They will practice one hour a week and games will be played on Saturdays and a few Sundays at various times. There are no requests for team placement or practice nights. Participants will receive a T-shirt. Evaluations are required for

all participants. Any players interested in playing high school basketball should register and if selected to High School team you can be refunded. Practice begins in December Games begin early January to mid-March. Some games will be played with other towns.

Boys, Grades 5&6, Girls, Grades 5&6, Boys, Grades 7&8, Girls, Grades 7&8, Boys, Grades 9-12

Resident \$50

*REGISTRATION DEADLINE FRIDAY DECEMBER 4, 2015*

## Parks & Recreation

### Coaches Needed

Volunteer coaches are always needed for the basketball program operated by the Vernon Parks and Recreation. If you are interested in coaching please contact the Recreation Department at 860-870-3520 so that we can send out information, requirements and an application for coaching with our department. This is a great opportunity for you to give back to the community.

### 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 coed program.

Participants will receive a T shirt.

Fridays; beginning early January, Ages 5-7: 6:00pm-7:00pm

Ages 8-12: 7:00pm-8:00pm

RHS Wrestling Room

Resident \$45 / Non-resident \$50

### Dance Program

Dance classes will be held continuously in 4 week sessions, beginning the week of January 4. Each week progresses for a performance on June 4. All classes are held at Center 375. Instructor Jessica 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](http://www.vernonrec.org)

#### Monday Classes:

Preschool Combo (ages 3-4): 4:45-5:30pm

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

Ballet/Jazz (ages 5-7): 5:30-6:15pm

Pom Dance/Jazz (ages 8-12): 6:15-7pm

#### Tuesday Classes:

Pom Dance/Jazz (ages 13+): 4:15-5pm

Tap (ages 12+): 5-5:45pm

Lyrical/Ballet Teen (ages 13+): 5:45-6:45pm

Hip Hop Teen (ages 13+): 6:45-7:30pm

#### Wednesday Classes:

Tap/Jazz (ages 6-7): 4:30-5:15pm

Lyrical/Ballet (ages 8-12): 5:15-6pm

Hip Hop (ages 8-12): 6-6:45pm

#### Thursday Classes:

Move n Grove (ages 18-36mth): 10:30-11:15am

*\*parent participation required\**

Preschool Combo (ages 3-4): 1-1:45pm

#### Saturday Classes:

Preschool Combo (ages 3-4): 9-9:45am

Tap/Hip Hop/Tumble (ages 5-7): 9:45-10:30am

Open Hip Hop (ages 7+): 10:30-11:15am

*Dance Class Fee Structure: \$35 for 1 class, \$30 for each additional class*

**Performance Dance:** For those interested in committing to being a Performance Dancer, please contact Jessica at [beyonddancect@hotmail.com](mailto:beyonddancect@hotmail.com)

### Berkshire East Ski Program

This is a 4-week Friday night ski program held at Berkshire East Ski Resort located in Charlemont, Mass. This program is for skiers of all abilities (beginner to advanced). The program is open to skiers as well as snowboarders. Rentals & lessons are available for an additional fee. Lift ticket, and bus transportation to and from Berkshire East are all included in the cost of the program. Bus departs at 3:30 p.m. and returns at 10:45 p.m. Space is limited and is on a first come, first served basis. NOTE: Adults and non-residents are also eligible to register for this program.

Fridays, Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29

Bus departs from Vernon Teen Center

WHO: Students in grades 7-12, Adults aged 18 and older

FEE: Lift Ticket \$195

Lift + Rental \$255

Lift + Lessons \$255

Lift + Rental + Lesson \$305



Registration Deadline: Friday, December 4 by 12:00noon

NOTE: MUST have a minimum of 35 registrations for this program to run, otherwise it will be canceled.

### Vernon Teen Center

The Vernon Teen Center is open to Vernon Teens in grades 6-8 on Friday evenings now until May. The Teen Center provides a variety of safe, supervised activities for all teens. Some of these activities include billiards, basketball tournaments, dodgeball, xbox tournaments, dances, karaoke, and much, much more. Teen Center is open for sixth, seventh and eighth-graders. Guests are permitted on a limited basis. A registration form must be completed upon the first visit to the Teen Center. The registration form must have a parent or guardians signature before any activities can be attended. Cost is \$10.

### ADULT CLASSES

#### Body Toning & Sculpting

This program is for those ages 17 and older and will be sure to get you a good workout. Get body toning exercises to help you firm up and lose weight. Use resistant bands and light weights for arm exercises, butt exercises, abs exercises, leg exercises and more with these total-body toning program. Participants will move and tone their bodies to various music while at the same time meet new friends. This class is a 4 week program.

Tuesdays January 12-February 2, 4-5pm

Vernon Teen Center Fitness Room, Instructor: Pat Stauder

Residents \$30 / Non-Residents \$35

**Continued on page 12**

## Parks & Recreation, continued from page 11...

### Zumba®

Are you ready to party yourself into shape? That's exactly what the Zumba® program is all about. It's an exhilarating, effective, easy-to-follow, Latin-inspired, calorie-burning dance fitness party that's moving millions of people toward joy and health. The exercises include music with fast and slow rhythms, as well as resistance training.

Mondays 7-8pm, Center 375 Gym

Thursdays 9:30-10:30am, Vernon Teen Center Dance Room

Drop In rate: \$6.00/class

### Cize

The hottest new workout is here and it is for everyone! It's so much fun, you won't even realize you are exercising! In each routine you will learn moves step-by-step and builds them into a full dance routine. Your cardio will skyrocket if you actually really work it out and push yourself. With dancing you can move at the pace you are comfortable with. So if you go for it, you'll lose weight and get toned. While you are mastering the dance moves, you'll also be burning fat and calories.

Tuesdays 7:30-8:30pm, Vernon Teen Center Dance Room

Drop In rate: \$6.00/class

### Zumba® Toning

Cardio fusion incorporates cutting edge research and fitness techniques to burn maximum calories, build lean muscles, and increase stamina. Full body workout, strengthens core, burns and tones.

Wednesdays, 7:15-8:15pm, Center 375 Gym

Drop in rate: \$6.00/class

### Blast

Blast is a fat shredding, muscle toning, personalized group exercise class in which people of every fitness level alternate between cardio and strength training.

Wednesdays 6:45-7:30pm, Saturdays 8-9am

Vernon Teen Center Dance Room

Per Session rate: Drop in rate: \$6/class

### Vernon Adult Softball

The Vernon Parks and Recreation Department is accepting registration from NEW SOFTBALL TEAMS interested in participating in the various Men's, Women's and Coed leagues.

Each league plays on a set night, Monday Men's D League, Tuesday Men's C League, the other C league plays on 3 different nights. The Women's League plays on Tuesdays.

The Coed has a Recreational League that plays mostly Wednesdays and a Competitive League that plays mostly Thursdays. There will be a Sunday Coed League and a Men's Open League...

For more information please call or email Steve Krajewski at 860-870-3520 or Skrajewski@vernon-ct.gov

### Over The Hill Hoops

Have fun and get in shape at this drop-in basketball program for Vernon residents ages 35 and over. Half-court games are organized each week on Fridays from 7:30-9 p.m. The schedule will be available at the gym. Each participant will need to complete a registration form with email address in case of cancellations.

Fee: \$3 per week or \$40 flat rate, Vernon Center Middle School  
*To participate, register at the gym on Fridays with identification.*

### Disc Rental

Discs 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.

### Community Gardens

Located at Vernon Center Middle School, individuals can rent a 25x25 garden plot for their personal gardening needs. Each plot cost \$20 (\$15 for seniors) and will be ready for planting by the end of April.

Registration for last year's returning gardeners will open February 8, 2016.

All new gardeners may register starting March 14, 2016. All returning gardeners must register by March 14, 2016 to guarantee their same plot.

## SLEDDING HILLS

### Henry Park

Henry Park is located at 120 South Street. The sledding hill begins at the tower and goes downhill towards the Hartmann Pavilion. Snow permitting, the hill is lighted seasonally until 9:00pm each night.

### Vernon Center Middle School

The sledding hill is located behind VCMS near to the Community Gardens. Snow permitting, the hill is open seasonally until sundown.

### Ice Skating

Valley Falls Pond located at 300 Valley Falls Rd. & Walkers Reservoir on Reservoir Rd are available seasonally for ice skating. Participants should call the Vernon Parks and Recreation office for a condition report prior to stepping onto the ice.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Winterfest



Friday, December 4th,  
6:15pm, Central Park,  
Rockville. Fire Truck Parade  
• P&R After School (REK)  
Float • REK Students  
Marching • Carol Singing  
• Tree Lighting • Tree

## Parks & Recreation

Ornaments Created By RHS Art Dept • Snowflake Lighting On Tower • Pictures With Santa • Unveiling Of Santa's New House • RHS Marching Band Performing, *Lite Refreshments Will Be Served*

### Holiday House Decorating Contest

The Vernon Parks and Recreation Department, in conjunction with the Rockville Community Alliance, is holding a Holiday Decorating Contest for all residential houses and commercial buildings located in Vernon. The contest will also include the best decorated street/road in Vernon. Registration forms available at the Vernon Parks & Recreation Dept or at <http://rockvillecommunityalliance.org/events/holiday-decorating-contest/>

- Entries must be submitted by 1:00 pm, December 18, 2015.
- Judging will take place after all entries are in.
- Recognition will be given out to the top three winners in each category.
- Participants may only enter in ONE of the following categories: Overall Best Display; Best Commercial Building; Best Door; Best Holiday Themed House

### Snowman/Snow Sculpture Contest

The Vernon Parks and Recreation Department is holding a Snowman/Snow Sculpture Contest for all residents in Vernon. To enter in the contest, you must email a picture of your snowman or sculpture to the Vernon Parks & Recreation Dept at: [parksandrec@vernon-ct.gov](mailto:parksandrec@vernon-ct.gov)

Please be sure to include the photo, your name, address, and phone number in the email. If you do not have access to email, you must take a picture and bring a copy of the photo to the Parks & Rec office at 120 South Street. Judging will take place as entries are submitted. Entries must be submitted by February 28. Winners will be announced in March.

### Easter Egg Hunt

The Vernon Parks & Recreation Dept, sponsored by Dunkin' Donut, will hold annual Easter Egg Hunt on Friday, March 25 at Henry Park for children 2-8. Come and hunt for thousands of foil wrapped solid chocolate Easter Eggs hidden by the Easter Bunny. Children 2-4 must be accompanied by an adult during the event. No pre-registration is required. No pets allowed on field. Friday, March 25 (rain date Saturday, March 26) Henry Park

Times: Age 2: 9:45a.m. on the Softball Field

Age 3-4: 10:15am on the Softball Field

Age 5-6: 9:30am on the McCoy Baseball Field

Age 7-8: 10:00am on the McCoy Baseball Field

### Fishing Derby

**Sponsored By: JT's Flyshop; Union, Ct**

51st annual Fishing Derby early. Valley Falls Pond will be stocked with plenty of trout, take this opportunity to introduce your children (Ages 15 and under) to fishing when the odds are stacked in their favor. No charge for residents, \$3 for non

residents. Prizes will be given to the top 3 in each division. The John M. Gessay Award will be presented to the participant who catches the heaviest trout.

### Mother's Day Dash

d5543rd Annual 5K Mother's Day Dash on Sunday May 8th. The start and finish will take place in Henry Park (120 South St; Vernon, CT 06066). There are 17 different age divisions and a special mother-daughter, mother-son division. The top three in each division will receive prizes. There will be a free raffle for all runners that stay for the awards ceremony. Live family entertainment will be provided throughout the race. There will be plenty of water, bagels and fruit available to the runners. Race proceeds will benefit the Vernon Teen Center, the Police Explorers and the Robert J. Bonadies Scholarship Fund at Rockville High School.

### 2015-2016 After School Program

The Vernon Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to offer several different childcare programs to meet the needs of Vernon families. Our goal is to make our high-quality programs convenient and affordable while providing your child with a safe, well-rounded, and fun experience.

To register for any of our childcare programs please return a completed registration form, along with the first full month's payment, to the Parks & Recreation office via mail or in person. Registration forms can be found at our office or online at [www.vernonrec.org](http://www.vernonrec.org).

### R.E.K. (Recreation and Education for Kids)

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

#### Daily Activities

- Homework/Quiet Activities- Children may use this time to work on homework, read, or engage in other activities such as puzzles and quiet games. Books are available at each site but your child is encouraged to bring a favorite book from home to read if they would like. Staff will be available for homework assistance as needed.
- Recreation- Children will have plenty of time for active recreation each day. Outdoor time on the school's playscape and athletic fields will be offered whenever weather permits, and in the case of inclement weather the school gym will be used. Recreation time will include a combination of structured games, team sports, and free play to allow your child to get moving and have fun!

Continued on page 14

## **Parks & Recreation, continued from page 13...**

- **Arts & Crafts-** A variety of arts & crafts activities will be offered to allow the children to explore their creativity, both through structured projects and free creative time.
  - **Snack-** A healthy snack will be provided each day, with special consideration given for allergies or food restrictions.
  - **Enrichment Activities-** We are proud to partner with community organizations to periodically bring a variety of additional enrichment activities to our R.E.K. programs
- Fees & Payments:** The fee for the 2015-16 school year is \$13.50 per regular day, and \$19.50 per early dismissal day. The first month's payment is due in full at the time of registration. Further payments are due on the 15th of each month and may be made online, by mail, and at your site or the Parks & Recreation office. Late payments will incur a fee of \$8.00 per month. To see if you may qualify for financial assistance contact Care 4 Kids at 1-888-214-KIDS or [www.ctcare4kids.com](http://www.ctcare4kids.com).

### **SRS Morning Club**

Based on the number of requests we have received from families in the Skinner Road School community, we are offering a before-school care program for Skinner Road School students in grades K-5 during the 2015-2016 school year. This program can help ease some of your family's morning rush by providing your child with a safe, fun environment where they can engage in low-key activities and socialize with their friends before school. The SRS Morning Club is held right at the school cafeteria, so children can head off to their classrooms at the start of the school day focused and ready to learn. Participants are welcome to bring a prepared breakfast to eat at Morning Club.

**Fees & Payments:** The fee for the 2015-16 school year is \$8 per morning. The first month's payment is due in full at the time of registration. Further payments are due on the 15th of each month and may be made online, by mail, and at the site or the Parks & Recreation office. Late payments will incur a fee of \$8.00 per month.

### **Vacation Camps**

No school? No worries! We also offer day camps during school vacations and professional development days. This program is held at the Teen Center at Center 375 (375 Hartford Turnpike) and offers a variety of indoor and outdoor activities throughout the day to help your child fit in a lot of fun on their days off. Vacation Camps run from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and are for children in grades K-5.

#### **2015-2016 Vacation Camp Dates**

*Please note that dates may be subject to change or cancellation based on enrollment numbers*

Presidents' Day: 2/15-2/16, Election Day: 11/3, Professional Dev.: 3/28, Winter Break: 12/28 – 12/31, April Vacation: 4/11 – 4/15, MLK Day: 1/18

#### **Activities may include:**

- **Outdoor time-** Organized games & sports, as well as free play time will be offered to get the children moving and having fun.
- **Arts & Crafts-** A variety of arts & crafts activities will be offered for children to explore their creativity, both through structured

projects and free creative time.

- **Indoor Activities-** In the case of inclement weather we still have plenty of fun indoor activities including board games, puzzles, movies, and group games

- **Snacks & Lunch-** Please send your child with a non-refrigerated morning snack & drink, a lunch, and an afternoon snack & drink. If your child arrives early in the morning you are welcome to send them with a prepared breakfast as well

**Fees & Payments:** The fee for vacation camp is \$30 per day for Vernon residents and \$35 per day for non-residents. Payment is due in full at the time of registration. Registration forms can be found at the Parks & Recreation office, and are also sent out through your child's school prior to vacations. You may also register online at [www.vernonrec.org](http://www.vernonrec.org) (please note if you register online you will also be asked to complete a hard copy registration form with emergency contacts and pertinent medical information when you drop your child off at camp).

### **Facility Rentals**

Reunions, Birthday Parties, Weddings, Showers, Gatherings, Meetings

**PARKS & REC HAS THE PLACE TO HAVE IT!**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE [VERNONREC.ORG](http://VERNONREC.ORG) FOR MORE DETAILS**

### **SPONSORSHIPS**

#### **Basketball**

In order to keep our programs affordable the Vernon Parks and Recreation department is actively recruiting businesses to sponsor youth basketball teams. Currently, there are six recreational leagues with approximately 25 teams. The cost of sponsoring a recreational basketball team is \$150.00, which includes your business's name on the back of each team shirt, publicity on our Parks and Recreation Department's website throughout the season, and exposure to approximately 400 different children and adults. Please contact Steve Krajewski or Rich Durkee at 860-870-3520.

#### **Sponsorship Opportunities**

Any business interested in having a 4x8 sign displayed, year round at the Henry Park softball field is 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



# Youth Services office at Rockville High School



Anyone who passes by Room 235 at Rockville High School is sure to see a revolving door of students coming in and out as they grab some M&M's, play with one of the many fidget toys or let Mrs. McTighe know how they're doing. Many students stop into the office in between classes to say hello and often end up talking about a school or personal issue which needs to be addressed. They might not know the room number, but students often refer to it as "that really colorful room" or "the room where you can get snacks and talk."

This room is also known as the satellite office of the Vernon Youth Services Bureau and is an addition to the support services

offered at Rockville High School. Kim McTighe works for Vernon Youth Services and has staffed that office since August, 1995. She also grew up in Vernon and attended Rockville High School.

This partnership between the school and Youth Services Bureau (YSB) is unique to Youth Service Bureaus. Having an office in the school allows Kim to be on the front lines and work closely with the school support staff, school resource officer and administration to help assess students' needs. She provides counseling and case management services to students who are struggling with issues at school and at home. It also allows her to interact and build relationships with the high school population in order to connect the students and their families to school and community resources.

The school office allows her to have direct access to students in order to co-facilitate intervention groups, run prevention programs, coordinate employment learning programs and community based prevention initiatives and she also helps to coordinate after school Zumba, Yoga and basketball programs in which 30% of the high school students participated last year.

Kim is also the advisor for the Peer Advocate and SSNAP (Students Seeking New Achievements Positively) programs where she works with students to educate the school about issues such as the dangers of 3D driving: Drinking, Drugged and Distracted driving. The groups participate in community service projects, mentor at the elementary schools and work with peers who might be struggling. They also coordinate school activities such as the mock car crash and an overnight Volleyball lock in which is the most anticipated event at RHS. Over 250 students participate each year and take part in a double elimination volleyball tournament as well as Zumba and karaoke.

Kim also takes part in a number of school and community groups such as the Juvenile Review Board, Vernon Drug and Alcohol Prevention Council, Tolland County Multi-disciplinary team, Attendance Intervention Group, Student Attendance Review Board and the RHS Crisis Team.

For more information or to get in touch with Kim you can call (860) 870-6050 or [kmctighe@vernon-ct.gov](mailto:kmctighe@vernon-ct.gov).

## Overnight Parking

Fall has arrived, the leaves are falling and temperatures are dropping. These are harbingers of things to come. Winter is around the corner and so is the annual overnight parking enforcement campaign by the Vernon Police Department.

On an annual basis, the Vernon Police Department begins the winter season with the enforcement of Town Ordinance 13-38, which prohibits the overnight parking of vehicles on the public streets. Any vehicle found parked on the street between the hours of 3:30 am and 5:00 am is subject to a \$15.00 fine for each violation.

In order to gain compliance with the ordinance the Police Department will shortly begin to place warning notices on vehicles found in violation with enforcement to begin in earnest by December.

The ordinance is in place to assist Public Works with the timely clearing and treatment of snow covered streets.

Although the ordinance prohibits overnight parking on an annual basis, the ordinance is not enforced during non-winter months due to the lack of parking areas in sections of the community.

The Police Department also reminds vehicle owners that during snow events parking bans will be put in place to facilitate snow removal. Any vehicle found on the town streets during a parking ban, which impedes snow removal operations, can and will be towed at the owner's expense.

With a little cooperation the community and the Police Department can provide safe passage on our streets during the upcoming winter season.

James Kenny  
Chief, Vernon Police Department

# Vernon Volunteers' Collaborative

## Together We Make Vernon Special

The Vernon Volunteers' Collaborative (VVC) is a group of 12 Vernon nonprofit organizations helping to make Vernon a special place to live and work through:

- Preservation or beautification of Vernon's open space, parks and environment.
- Preserving and sharing Vernon's history and historic properties.
- Encouraging appreciation of and participation in the arts.

### Which of these are important to you and your family?

Vernon is blessed to have dedicated and passionate volunteers who donate their time to such organizations as Arts Center East, Friends of Valley Falls, New England Civil War Museum, Northern Connecticut Land Trust, Strong Family Farm, Vernon Garden Club, Vernon Greenways Volunteers and Vernon



Jason Newton leads VHS's fall walk at Bamforth Road cemetery. Photo by: Jon Roe

Historical Society.

But their time alone is not enough. You may not know that the Town of Vernon provides very little monetary support to these organizations. Most of their funds are raised through membership, donations, grants, and

fundraisers.

The holiday season is traditionally a time of giving to the charities and organizations we each support. As important as it is, most of our holiday giving doesn't benefit the activities we enjoy locally.

This year will you also support the local community of nonprofit volunteer organizations that make Vernon special?



Volunteers unload pumpkins at Strong Family Farm's fall work day. Photo by: Jon Roe

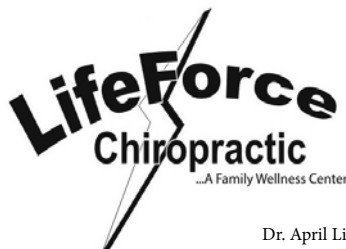
When you visit our website at [VernonVolunteers.org](http://VernonVolunteers.org) you'll find a description of each organization. Choose one or more that resonates with your interests and either become a member or make a donation.

Membership numbers are important when applying for grants and to maintain nonprofit status.

On our website you'll find a 'Join' tab for becoming a member of each organization. That should also take you to a page that will tell you how to donate.

During the Winter there are few organized outdoor activities, but the Vernon Garden Club, Vernon Historical Society and Arts Center East offer programs year round. To learn more about these events visit [VernonVolunteers.org](http://VernonVolunteers.org)'s 'Vernon Events' page.

### A FAMILY WELLNESS CENTER



Dr. April Little



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# Vernon Senior Center

The Vernon Senior Center welcomes all Vernon Seniors to our Center. Join us for a great time participating in either our on-going games, informative presentations or special activities! We also offer a day trip each month for seniors. To view our monthly newsletter and calendar, go to the Town of Vernon's website, [www.vernon-ct.gov](http://www.vernon-ct.gov), click on Departments, then the Senior Center and follow the prompts. The website will always give you an up to date listing of activities.

## Upcoming Events

### **Tuesday, December 1st at 1:00 pm**

The Out to Lunch Bunch will travel to East Hartford to Carmine's. Join our group for a lovely luncheon. There will be three entrées to choose from. Call to sign up by November 30th.

### **Friday, December 4th at 12:30 pm**

We will have our Holiday Luncheon with musical entertainment by Michael Ciulla.

The luncheon will be catered by Maneeley's with a menu of Beef tips in a Burgundy sauce, Seafood Stuffed Sole, Roasted Baby Potatoes with garlic and herbs, salad, rolls and dessert. Michael will provide holiday music for our entertainment. Snow date for this event will be Friday December 11th. Please call to sign up by November 25th. Cost is \$12.00 per person.

### **Monday, December 14th at 2:00 pm**

Celebrating or have you celebrated a birthday in the month of October, November or December? We will be honoring you with cake on that day. Please call to sign up.

### **Wednesday, December 16th at 12:30 pm**

Join a fun group of people to enjoy a pizza lunch and play the card game - Crazy Whist! No skills necessary. Instructions provided! Anyone can play this! Prizes awarded. Cost \$7.00.

### **Thursday, December 17th at 10:00 am**

Our Book Club meets each month on the third Thursday to discuss a book chosen on the previous month. Call the Center to inquire about the title after November 19th.

### **Thursday, December 17th at 1:30 pm**

Each month we provide our Newcomers with a tour and overview of our Senior Center programs and activities. We would love to have you join us and learn about our Center.

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

We look forward to meeting you!

# Snow & Ice Removal Guide

The primary responsibility for keeping Vernon streets open and the transportation network alive during winter storms rests with the Public Works Department.

When winter precipitation starts, the Public Works dispatches trucks throughout the town to treat the roads and plow over 26 separate plow routes. Within each plow route, certain streets are designated as primary streets to be "opened up" first so that all areas of the Town can be reached by snow removal crews and emergency vehicles. Secondary streets are then opened. This means that one or two passes will be made so that the road is open for traffic. Residents can help by parking vehicles off the street at all times during the winter months.

After all streets are opened, the drivers will begin to "widen out" so that the maximum width of the traveled way will be usable. Widening out may require four or more additional passes to move the accumulated snow to the gutter line. Cul-de-sac residents are encouraged to be patient with the removal of snow from these areas as large snow removal equipment cannot appropriately clear the entire area and alternate equipment may then be applied when the storm subsides. The plow operator has little choice as to where the snow will be deposited; many times the snow will be deposited into driveway openings.

It is suggested that when clearing your driveway you shovel the snow to the right when facing the street, this way what you have shoveled will not be deposited in your driveway by the plow. The

parking ban may be enforced by the Chief of Police if the storm warrants it.

## Sidewalks

Sidewalks must be cleared of all ice and snow within eight hours of the end of the storm, or eight hours after sunrise if the storm ended during the night. When plowing or clearing driveways and sidewalks, snow may not be deposited onto the roadways. Plowing contractors and homeowners should take notice that violators may be subject to a fine for this. Our department has free sand available for your sidewalks; call our office at 860-870-3500 for the locations.

## Mailboxes

While plow truck drivers make every effort to avoid mailboxes, they do, on occasion, hit or knock one over. Operators must report these incidents to their supervisor. It is also possible that mailboxes can be knocked over by heavy snow without the operator's knowledge.

It is the Town's policy to replace a mailbox struck by a Town vehicle if the mailbox was mounted on a sturdy post and located according to U.S. Postal Service standards. Once it has been determined that the Town is at fault, the mailbox will be replaced with either a plain white or black regulation mailbox and a pressure-treated post (if applicable). The post office will not

**Continued on page 18...**

## Snow & Ice Removal, continued from page 17...

deliver mail until the mailbox is replaced. These standards are summarized as follows:

- The box should be 3½ - 4 feet from ground level to the bottom of the box.
- The face of the box should be flush with the back of the curb or set back 6 - 12 inches from the edge of the road.
- All mailboxes should have a handle, a flag, and the house number on the righthand side as you face it from the street.
- Residents must keep the approach to their mailbox clear of obstructions to allow safe access for delivery. If USPS employees are impeded in reaching a mail receptacle, the Postmaster may withdraw delivery service.
- Curbside mailboxes must be placed to allow safe and convenient delivery by carriers without leaving their vehicles.

### Fire Hydrants

Owners of property and occupants of buildings that have a fire hydrant are required by Town Ordinance to clear a 4-foot area in all directions around the hydrant and a 3-foot wide path from the street to the fire hydrant. Failure to comply with this ordinance

may result in a fine. The Fire Department counts on hydrants being cleared of snow to help protect your safety.

### Catch Basins

Help minimize street flooding by shoveling snow and ice from in front of the catch basin nearest your house. This includes keeping catch basin grates free of leaves and other debris all year long!

### Basketball Hoops & Poles

The Town will not be responsible for basketball hoops and poles placed on town property, either at the edge of the road or on a cul-de-sac. Basketball hoops or poles damaged by town vehicles, especially during removal of refuse, recycling, snow, slush, etc. will not be repaired or replaced. These items should be placed on private property.

### Refuse & Recycling Collection

During winter months, please keep cart(s) clear of snow, snow banks, parked cars, and other obstructions. Place refuse and recycling carts at the edge of the driveway, NOT in the roadway.

Robert Kleinhans, Director,  
Department of Public Works

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# Two Fire Departments in Vernon?



Yes? Prior to 1979 Vernon had two fire departments: The Vernon Fire District and The Rockville Fire Department. The Fire District consisted of three companies formed in the 1940's to meet the needs

of rural Vernon. The Rockville Fire Department consisted of six companies formed in the 1800's to meet the needs of the more industrialized Rockville section of Vernon. Ambulance services were provided by the volunteers out of each department in their coverage areas. Each department had its own Chief, Officers, geographical boundaries and methods of organization.



Even though the general government (Town Council, Board of Education, Police Department, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, etc.) was consolidated in 1964, the fire departments were not. In the early 1970's 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 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 volunteers needed to

happen. Long hours of difficult and detailed negotiations took place. Many years of tradition and feelings had to be respected. The name of the new department had to show no favoritism to one department or the other. 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, a single department made up of all volunteers and an ambulance service.

In 36 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. The limited monies allocated for fire protection is able to be spent on the best equipment and training without the high cost of salaries and benefits. 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.

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# Hartford Marathon



## Several Vernon Public Schools participated in Hartford Marathon activities this fall

Both Skinner Road School and Center Road School staff and students participated in the Hartford Marathon and both schools finished strong! Vernon Center Middle Schools students ran in the Hartford Marathon "FitKids in School" program which is designed to encourage a healthy, active lifestyle in middle school students. Over a five-week period, students ran together before, during or after school to accumulate 12 miles or 25 miles. Then, in early October, they came together with students from middle schools around Connecticut for the culminating "Final Mile" run to complete their marathon (26.2 miles) or half marathon (13.1). All Vernon Center Middle school students crossed over a magnificent finish line complete with music, announcers and cheering spectators! Way to go Vernon Public Schools!



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# Rockville's Charles Ethan Porter

## "African-American Master of Still Life"



Rediscovered after many years, local artist Charles Ethan Porter strived to overcome society's prejudice toward African Americans and created a body of work that revealed his growth as an artist during the era of Impressionism.

Born in Hartford in 1847 or 1849, Charles Porter's family moved back to Rockville during his youth.

Porter's artistic gifts were evident before he graduated from high school in 1865. Porter left Rockville to further his education, studying at the National Academy of Design in New York City from 1869 through 1873. He supported his education by giving art lessons. To help him pay for an additional year of school, Rockville citizens held a musical benefit for him at a local church in 1877. Porter left New York City in 1878 and moved to Hartford where he lived until 1881.

Charles Porter specialized in still life paintings of fruits, insects, butterflies, and flowers in a mixture of indoor and outdoor settings. His work was known for realistic details and precise brushstrokes. While in Hartford, Porter became acquainted with people in the local art and literary communities including Samuel Clemens, also known as writer Mark Twain. As an African American, Porter endeavored to prove that he had the talent and ambition to succeed as an artist.

In 1881, Porter decided to study in France to learn about the new movement in art that would ultimately be labeled "Impressionism." Arriving in France, Porter carried a letter of introduction from Samuel Clemens and other notable citizens from Hartford. He spent two years abroad and took courses at an art school in Paris. Before having to return to the United States due to a shortage of funds, Porter spent time in the French countryside which inspired him to paint landscapes.

Porter returned to Hartford in 1884. His later work revealed the influences of his time overseas. His still life paintings display looser brushwork and he used color and light in a more Impressionistic style.



Between 1884 and 1897, he divided his time between Hartford and New York as he worked on making a name for himself. These years were his most productive period. He sold a number of paintings but not enough to completely support himself as an artist. Throughout his career, incidents occurred which made him conscious of the barriers that society imposed on his race. After 1897, he settled permanently in Rockville. He

occasionally exhibited his work. His income came from giving lessons to area artists and selling still life paintings and depictions of local scenes. Porter died in 1923. In his last years, he faced declining health and the loss of close relatives. Sometimes to get by, he would trade paintings in place of money to settle his bills.

Known only to people in Rockville at the time of his death, Porter and his work were rediscovered in the late 20th century. In one of his letters, Porter wrote that he felt that his struggle to become accepted as an artist and as an African American would pave the way for others of his race to achieve success in the arts. Porter's art is appreciated by many museum visitors and art collectors. The story of the artist adds a greater richness to his body of work.

The information in this article was taken from the book: *Charles Ethan Porter, African-American Master of Still Life* by Hildegard Cummings, published by the New Britain Museum of American Art in 2007.

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## The Vernon Chorale Celebrates 35 Years!



Photographer: Cheryl Brown

Founded in 1980, the Vernon Chorale remains true to its core mission of musical excellence and education. The Chorale has established a reputation of high quality performances that include traditional choral music as well as vocal jazz and contemporary a cappella. Their versatility as an ensemble allows for a wide range of programming enjoyed by Tolland and Hartford County audiences.

One of the unique features of the Vernon Chorale is their Choral and Conducting Fellow programs in which young singers and aspiring conductors are provided an arena to refine their skills under the leadership of Artistic Director, Ehren Brown. Brown, who became artistic director in 2006, is proud of the Chorale's evolving education program. "Our Fellow graduates now ably lead their own choirs in Connecticut and beyond, and we are happy to have been a part of their musical journey."



Photographer: Cheryl Brown

The Chorale has blossomed into one of Vernon's cherished treasures. They are an institution on the move with a vibrant, growing membership and exciting plans for the future. Their vision includes a professional

recording, a collaborative concert with Rockville High School, and strengthening ties with the Vernon community. Brown promises both singers and audiences, "to continue to push the boundaries of what you would expect in a choral concert, and to explore unexpected styles and celebrate up-and-coming composers."

Never experienced the Vernon Chorale? Come and be captivated! Attend their anniversary season concerts December 12, 2015 and April 9, 2016 at 7:30 pm at St. Bernard Church, 25 St. Bernard's Terrace, Vernon and June 4, 2016 at 7:30 pm at South United Methodist Church, 1226 Main Street, Manchester. Suggested donations are \$15 adults, \$12 seniors; tickets are available at the door.

Visit our website at [VernonChorale.org](http://VernonChorale.org) or call (860) 375-0545 for more information. Member Vernon Volunteers' Collaborative.

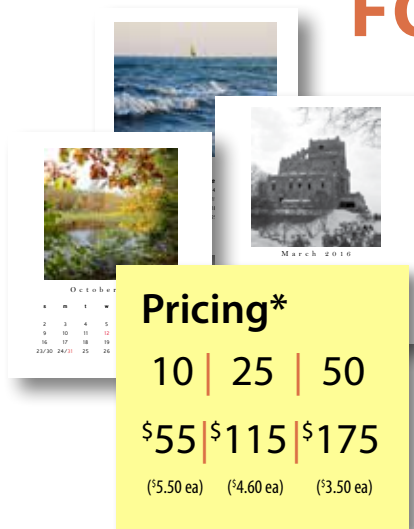
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