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The Mayor's Corner

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the fourth quarter edition of "Vernon Events Magazine." This issue is dedicated to the men and women of the military who risk their lives for all of us!

Special thanks to Steve Smith of Steve Smith Photography for our cover photo and Jerry Bundy, for the photograph on our inside cover story. Please take a moment and check out the cover story about local citizens who volunteered their time and raised over \$30,000 in small, medium and large donations to enhance Central Park and other areas of town with the six flags representing the branches of military service. Thank you to all who participated.

As you review this edition you will find many, many articles of interest to our citizens. One new item of interest to our veterans and their families is located in the Senior Center article. Beginning on November 15, 2016 we will be opening a "Community Access Point" office for the VA and Hartford Veterans Center. Every Tuesday from 9:30 am – 3:00 pm there will be free counseling for all veterans. If you or a family member is interested in taking advantage of this local opportunity, please call 860.563.8800 to schedule an appointment. The Town of Vernon is happy to provide this service to our area veterans. For those who want to honor veterans who have passed, the

Wreaths Across America program is being sponsored locally by the Town of Vernon Cemetery Commission. The ceremony is Saturday, December 17, 2016 at 12:00 noon at the Grove Hill Ceremony. If you are interested in participating or donating to this most noble cause contact the Town Cemetery Office at 860.875.3158 for more information.



Daniel A. Champagne, Mayor

This edition also highlights the changes happening at the Amerbelle Mill Campus on Grove Street and the many opportunities available for fall/winter programs through our many departments. Please take a moment and see what Vernon has to offer! I look forward to seeing everyone at Winterfest on December 2, 2016 in Central Park! Don't forget it is the night of the Light Parade and the arrival of Santa Claus!

Respectfully,
Daniel A. Champagne
Mayor



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Cover Story



Photos by Jerry Bundy

Volunteers lead by Carl Schaefer, Jerry Bundy, John Talcott 3rd and Chet Morgan worked tirelessly to raise funds to place flags representing the six branches of military service at Central Park; Main Street, Talcottville; Route 30 & 31; Fox Hill Tower; and new American flags for Union Street and Windsor Avenue. This group of dedicated volunteers worked to raise the \$30,000 required to fund this project.

Once the funds were in hand, this group, in partnership with Mayor Daniel A. Champagne, the Parks and Recreation Department and the Department of Public Works, installed the flags to honor our many veterans. The new flags joined the American flags and special memorials already in place at these locations to remind us every day of the sacrifices made on our behalf. These new flags were all dedicated at individual ceremonies held earlier this year.

This Veterans Day, November 11, 2016 is an opportunity for all of us to join with these volunteers to take a moment to remember all the men and women who have given unselfishly so that we might be free to live in peace with our families. The new flags will be a year round reminder that we should be proud of our veterans and their service to the citizens of the United States of America and remember the sacrifices they have made.

On behalf of the Town of Vernon, and all our veterans, please join us in thanking Carl Schaefer, Jerry Bundy, John Talcott, Chet Morgan and all the many donors who made this project possible.

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

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

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Veterans Information for Town Clerk and Assessor

Any new veterans moving into Vernon need to have their discharge on file with the Town Clerk. The original form DD214 had to have been filed with the Town Clerk before October 1, 2016 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 who has not reapplied since last year should also contact the Assessor's Office. Forms can be obtained at the Assessor's Office. If there are any questions please call the Assessor's Office at 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.

Vernon Memorials to Our Veterans

Memorial Hall aka Town Hall was built in 1889 to commemorate the 336 soldiers of the Town of Vernon who fell in the War of the Rebellion, also known as the Civil War. The corner stone was set on Memorial Day, May 30, 1889. Over one million bricks were used in the building of this magnificent hall. The first gathering in the town hall located on the third floor of the Memorial Hall was a special town meeting on September 6, 1890. This large and handsome building continues to serve as a fitting memorial for soldiers while benefiting the town as the

Continued on page 6

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MEMORIALS TO VETERANS... continued from page 5

Town Hall. It also currently houses Probate Court and the Grand Army Room (GAR) Museum.

The War Memorial Tower on Fox Hill is dedicated to the veterans of all wars from the Town of Vernon. It was dedicated on August 5, 1939. Its foundation rests on solid rock - it is 72 feet high and has a walkway 220 feet long constructed with native stone. The walls contain bronze tablets inscribed with three branches of the service, Army, Navy and Marine Corps.

An Honor Roll was dedicated in Central Park on March 7, 1943 to honor those whose names were inscribed upon it for their sacrifices made for their town, state and country. Over the years Central Park has seen many updates and changes in its memorial to honor our hometown veterans, the most recent being the addition of flags representing the branches of the service.

Bernice K. Dixon; MCTC, CMC
Town Clerk

Veterans Discharge Certificates

I would like to remind all honorably discharged veterans or surviving spouses to file their original DD214 certificates, with original signatures, in the Town Clerk's office, in order to receive any tax exemption on your real estate or motor vehicles that you may be entitled to. After processing, your

certificate will be returned to you at the time you come in along with additional certified copies for future use. This will enable you to safeguard your original certificate. There is no charge to file your DD214 with us or for the additional certified copies. If you cannot locate your

original DD214, we can provide you with the form that can be submitted to the federal military archive office for a duplicate. We look forward to serving you soon.

Bernice K. Dixon; MCTC, CMC
Town Clerk

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L to R: Peter Welti, Jason Kloter, Dave Schneider

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Wreaths Across America



volunteer truckers transported the wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery. As national interest grew a group of dedicated volunteers formed Wreaths Across America as a non-profit 501-(c)3 to continue and expand the mission to Remember, Honor and Teach.

Today, over 700,000 memorial wreaths at over 1,000 locations in the United States and beyond are placed. Ceremonies are held at the Pearl Harbor Memorial as well as Bunker Hill, Valley Forge and the sites of the September 11 tragedies. Over 225,000 wreaths are placed in Arlington with the goal to mark each veteran grave.

Morrill Worcester is the founder and owner of the Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine. As a young newspaper carrier, Worcester won a trip to Washington, D.C. Visiting Arlington National Cemetery left a lasting impression, reminding him that his good fortune was due, in part, to the values of this nation and veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

In 1992, his company surplus of 5,000 wreaths kicked off an annual tribute that went on quietly for ten years. A convoy of

The Town of Vernon Cemetery Commission will hold its fourth yearly ceremony on Saturday, December 17 at 12:00 noon at the Grove Hill Cemetery. Seven ceremonial wreaths representing the six branches of the armed forces and the POW/MIA will be placed on Lugg Veterans Field. The public is invited to the brief yet moving ceremony of flags and the ceremonial wreaths placed by veterans and community leaders.



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Transformation of the Former Amerbelle Mill



Fall is a season of change, but this fall, Vernon is experiencing more than just dropping leaves and crisp mornings. The biggest change in decades may be taking place with the transformation of the former Amerbelle Mill.

Since mid-July, Stamford Wrecking has been on site conducting abatement and selective demolition of the former textile mill and its outbuildings. As seen in the photos, non-contaminated debris is stockpiled for later use, or is removed for recycling. Planned site work also calls for daylighting portions of the Hockanum River by removing sections of floor slab from the former Building #14. The onsite dam is also being relocated and replaced in order

to adhere to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection standards.

The work conducted thus far reveals how large the 4.21-acre site actually is. Its newly opened views reveal quite a different landscape at the intersection of Routes 74 and 31. The project is expected to reach “significant completion” by year-end, with minor site work expected into the early part of the year, weather permitting. The work at Amerbelle is being conducted in tandem with other ongoing and recently completed projects taking place along the Route 83, 74 and 31 corridors leading into downtown Rockville and concluding at Vernon’s border with Manchester. Some of these highlights include the completed Loom City Lofts, completed renovations to Citizen’s Block, and the ongoing



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work taking place at both Kaplan Mill Works and at Talcott Brothers Mill.

If you have not been able to view Amerbelle's progress in person, you can get a "birds-eye view" of the work from above via an aerial video from our friends at Photo Flight Aerial Media. Just visit the Town's website at www.vernon-ct.gov. Once there, look for the Photo Flight logo located on the right side of the page, and click on the link "Aerial Video #1: Transformation of the former Amerbelle Mill."

Leslie Campolongo, Administration

South Street Reconstruction on Track for Next Spring



Finally after years of planning, design and re-design the Reconstruction of South Street from Vernon Avenue to West Street is about to begin. The 4700 ft long reconstruction will include adjusting road grades, improving sightlines, additional drainage and improved sidewalks along the length of the project.

The advertisement to solicit bids for the

work was run on September 29th, 2016, with proposals due back to the Town by October 24th, 2016. The lowest responsible bidder will be identified and once all the supporting information is approved by the Connecticut Department of Transportation, a contract will be signed to initiate this project. It is anticipated that the contractor will spend the winter

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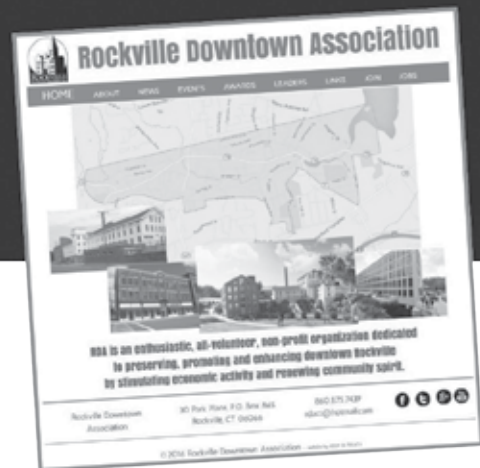


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months completing all the required start up tasks and begin work in earnest in the spring of 2017. Work is expected to take the entire construction season and be completed by November of 2017.

Funding for the approximately \$4.2 million in project cost is 80% from the Federal Highway Administration's STP-Urban, 10% CT DOT funds and the remaining 10% from the Town of Vernon.

The need to do improvements along this stretch of the road were first identified a number of years ago and this project was selected for federal funding through a competitive application process administered by the Capital Region Council of Governments. Subsequent public hearings modified the scope of work and necessitated significant redesign to address the neighborhood concerns and to remain within the available budget.

Area residents are to be applauded for their patience. While the design slugged its way through the approval process, Eversource Gas installed new mains and services in 2015, and Connecticut Water has installed new mains and services this year. It must seem that the noise and detours will never end, but hang in there. One more year and we'll have a beautiful new road system to serve the residents of Vernon for years to come.

David Smith
Vernon Town Engineer

Vernon Police Department trained to use Naloxone

In September of 2016, the sworn members of the Vernon Police Department were trained on the signs and symptoms of an opiate overdose and how to administer the life saving medication, Naloxone (commonly known as Narcan®). A newly enacted law requires that any first responder, who is likely to be first on scene of an opiate overdose, be equipped with Naloxone and be trained on its use. Naloxone is a medication used to counteract the harmful effects of opiate or opioid overdoses, which can be fatal. An opiate overdose primarily affects the respiratory system causing a person's breathing rate to slow down until it stops completely, which causes the person's heart

to stop. The Naloxone, which is liquid form, is turned into a very fine mist as it administered into the body through the nose. This allows it to be quickly absorbed into the blood stream and then circulated throughout the body.

The police officers sat through a presentation about opiate based overdoses, which included the signs and symptoms of an opiate overdose, indications of when and when not to use Naloxone, and the possible reactions after administering the medication. Police officers learned that Naloxone not only can be used to help those who have overdosed on illegal

opiate based drugs (like heroin) but can also be used to help people who have accidentally overdosed on prescription opiate based drugs (like Fentanyl, Percocet®, and Vicodin®). After the lecture, the police officers practiced assembling the Naloxone kit and administering it to a manikin.

Each Vernon Police officer takes out with them on patrol a Naloxone kit, which consists of a needles syringe, a dose of Naloxone, and an atomizing device. The kit is designed to be easily accessible and quickly assembled to minimize the delay in providing the life saving medication to the person.

Town of Vernon Fire Department

Providing Fire and EMS Services to the Town of Vernon

CPR AND OUR HEARTSAFE COMMUNITY

What does it mean to be a HEARTSafe Community? HEARTSafe Communities is a program designed to promote survival from sudden out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. It is a general concept focused upon strengthening the "chain of survival" as described by the American Heart Association. It recognizes and

stimulates efforts by individual communities to improve their system for preventing sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) from becoming irreversible death.

The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health uses the basic National HEARTSafe model and established a set of mini-



mum criteria its communities must meet in order to achieve HEARTSafe status. These are goals that support the chain of survival, such as widespread CPR instruction, public access defibrillators, and aggressive resuscitation protocols for first responders and area hospitals. The Town of Vernon meets these guidelines and is established as a HEARTSafe Community,

one of the over 600 local HEARTSafe Communities Nationwide that provide a “safety net” for over 8,000,000 people.

The Town of Vernon Fire Department truly takes this mission to heart. With 28 Fire Department members who are certified as American Heart Association CPR Instructors we reach out and actively educate those in our community, our schools and our businesses, the life saving skill of CPR. So far in 2016, over 350 people in this town have been trained by our instructors through the enthusiastic and dedicated Instructors in the Town of Vernon Fire Department who are making a collaborative effort and who believe in the mission and vision of AHA to reduce death and dying with education and awareness. Come join us at one of our classes and get educated on Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).

2016 Class Schedule (Seating is limited for each class)

HANDS ONLY CPR

FREE

October 12 Wednesday 6:30 pm

November 10 Thursday 6:30 pm

December 8 Thursday 6:30 pm

HEARTSAVER CPR/AED/ADULT/CHILD/INFANT

Certification class (\$25 fee includes book and certification card)

October 19 Wednesday 6:30 pm-9:30 pm

November 15 Tuesday 6:30 pm-9:30 pm

December 14 Wednesday 6:30 pm-9:30 pm

All classes taught at the Public Safety Complex,
280 West Road, Vernon (next to the Police Station).

Email your name, address, phone number with your questions or class you want to take to learnprvfd@yahoo.com and you will get a verification email regarding the registration process. Healthcare Provider classes can be arranged, please email to request information.

continued on page 12



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FIRE DEPARTMENT... continued from page 11

HANDS-ONLY CPR CAN SAVE LIVES.

Most people who experience cardiac arrest at home, work or in a public location die because they don't receive immediate CPR from someone on the scene. As a bystander, don't be afraid. Your actions can only help. When calling 911, you will be asked for your location. Be specific and answer the dispatcher's questions. If you do not know CPR, they will guide you on how to do Hands Only CPR while help is on the way.

What is the difference between a Cardiac Arrest and Heart Attack?

CARDIAC ARREST

Cardiac arrest occurs when the heart malfunctions and stops beating unexpectedly. Cardiac arrest is an "electrical" problem within the body. Cardiac arrest is triggered by an electrical malfunction in the heart that causes an irregular heartbeat (arrhythmia). With its pumping action disrupted, the heart cannot pump blood to the brain, lungs and other organs.

WHAT HAPPENS: Seconds later, a person becomes unresponsive, is not breathing or is only gasping. Death occurs within minutes if the victim does not receive treatment.

WHAT TO DO: Cardiac arrest can be reversible in some victims if it's treated within a few minutes. First, call 9-1-1 and start CPR right away. If an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is available, use it as soon as possible. If two people are available

to help, one should begin CPR immediately while the other calls 9-1-1 and finds an AED.

A HEART ATTACK

A heart attack occurs when blood flow to the heart is blocked. A heart attack is a circulation problem. A blocked artery prevents oxygen-rich blood from reaching a section of the heart. If the blocked artery is not reopened quickly, the part of the heart normally nourished by that artery begins to die.

WHAT HAPPENS: Symptoms of a heart attack may be immediate and may include intense discomfort in the chest or other areas of the upper body, shortness of breath, cold sweats, and/or nausea/vomiting. The heart attack symptoms in women can be different than men. More often, though, symptoms start slowly and persist for hours, days or weeks before a heart attack. Unlike with cardiac arrest, the heart usually does not stop beating during a heart attack. The longer the person goes without treatment, the greater the damage.

WHAT TO DO: Even if you're not sure it's a heart attack, call 9-1-1. Every minute matters! It's best to call 911 so EMS will bring you to the emergency room right away. Emergency medical services staff can begin treatment when they arrive, significantly sooner than if someone gets to the hospital by car. EMS personnel are also trained to revive someone whose heart has stopped.

Remember Fast Action Can Save Lives

33rd Annual Snow Plow Safety Roadeo



Competition was as fierce as ever as more than 55 drivers representing 17 municipalities battled it out at this event held on Thursday, October 13, 2016 in Wallingford. This annual event is sponsored by CASHO (Connecticut Association of Street & Highway Officials) and CIRMA (Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency).

The Vernon Public Works Department was represented by Pete

Lesniak (Equipment Operator), Tim Moriarty (Truck Driver), Dave Bower (Truck Driver), and Colton Garrison (Laborer). Dave Bower took 2nd Place in the Mason Dump Division, Tim Moriarty took 2nd place in the Six-Wheel Division and Pete Lesniak took 3rd place in the Ten-Wheel Dump Division. Vernon's Six-Wheel Dump Truck took Best in Show out of 17 trucks that participated and our Vernon Public Works Team took Winning Municipality for the 6th time in the past nine years! Congratulations to Team Vernon for a job well done!

FUN FACT!

Here are the names of the obstacles in the order they appeared in CASHO's 2016 Snow Plow Safety Roadeo:
Parked Cars • Snow Pile Push • Offset Lane • Left-hand Curve • Right-hand Curve • Serpentine • Cul-de-Sac • Straight Line Driving • Alley Dock • Diminishing Lane • Plow Drop, all while being timed.

ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A SNOW PLOW DRIVER?

Here are five of the twenty questions Roadeo participants were

required to answer before getting behind the wheel to drive the course.

- The minimum tire depth allowed on the front tires of a 9-ton dump truck is 4/32. True or false?
- It is illegal to operate a commercial motor vehicle if your blood alcohol concentration is .04. True or false?
- The best way to correct a drive wheel braking skid is to apply constant brake pressure. True or false?
- Always rely on traffic signals and safety signs. True or false?
- When carrying a load, the weight should be place entirely over the rear axle. True or false?

Some Winter Tips from the Department of Public Works

- 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.

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

Snow Removal Information

GENERAL INFO

The primary responsibility for keeping Vernon streets open and the transportation network alive during winter storms rests with the Town of Vernon Public Works Department. The State Department of Transportation takes care of the state roads (generally any road with a route number) and can be reached at 860-875-4993. The State DOT is responsible for the following routes in Vernon:

- RT 30 - Hyde Avenue, Hartford Turnpike
- RT 31 - Grove Street, Reservoir Road, Mile Hill Road
- RT 74 - Tolland Avenue, East Main Street, Union Street, Windsor Avenue, Windsorville Rd
- RT 83 - Talcottville Road, West Road
(parts of Hartford Turnpike & Windsor Avenue)
- RT 527 - West Street
- RT 533 - Tunnel Road, Lake Street
(from Tunnel Road to Bolton town line)
- RT 541 - South Frontage Road
- RT 542 - Whitney T. Ferguson Road

When winter precipitation starts, the Town of Vernon Public Works Department dispatches trucks throughout the Town to plow, lay salt and sand 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 utilized 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 of up to \$50 for each offense. Our department has free sand available to residents only for sidewalks. Call the Public Works 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). Under some weather conditions a temporary mailbox may be utilized until a permanent post can be installed. The post office will not 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 right hand 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

- Have your cart(s) at the curb by 6 am on your scheduled collection day.
- Face the lid opening toward the street - handle toward the house.
- Leave 3 feet between each cart or place cart(s) on either side of driveway.
- During winter months, please keep cart(s) clear of snow, snow banks, **ASH DISPOSAL**

Under no circumstances are ashes to be disposed of in the refuse and recycling cart(s). Wood ash retains enough heat to ignite other combustible materials for several days. Sparking embers are a fire hazard. There is a designated container located at the Public Works Garages at 375 Hartford Turnpike.

Robert J. Kleinhans
Director of Public Works

Vernon Social Services

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Vernon Social Services has begun accepting applications for the Energy Assistance program. This is a federally funded program that helps low to moderate income individuals and families with heating costs during the winter months. On behalf of eligible households the program pays for heating sources such as oil, natural gas, propane, electricity, kerosene, wood and wood pellets. Both homeowners and renters are eligible to apply.

Eligible households may also be able to receive free weatherization assistance. This can help conserve energy and lower heating costs. For income and asset guidelines or to schedule an appointment, please contact us at 860 870-3661x0.

CHOICES COUNSELING

Medicare's annual Open Enrollment period begins October 15th and runs through December 7th. This is when Medicare recipients can change their health or prescription drug plans for the coming year. These plans can make changes to their formularies, provider networks and cost structure every year. If you are receiving coverage through Medicare it is a good idea to review your coverage each year. For questions or to schedule an appointment with our certified CHOICES counselors please call 860 870-3661x0.

Learn about the new Verizon Plan at Wireless Zone[®] of Vernon.

verizon[✓]

Your local wireless experts.
Wireless Zone[®] is a Verizon Authorized Retailer.

Vernon
425 Talcott Rd
860-872-7244
WirelessZone.com/Vernon

WIRELESS ZONE[®]

Parkinson's Exercise Program

East Shore Region Adult & Continuing Education is hosting classes.
Beat Parkinson's Today is an exercise program designed specifically to improve Parkinson's symptoms.

There are presently 12 classes per week in 4 locations in CT with almost 50 Parkinson's clients participating.

Results have been astounding. Clients have improved gait, balance, fine motor control, explosive movement, attitude, self-image, and fatigue. Some have lowered their dosage of their medications.

860.463.3747
email at info@beatpdtoday.com,
or visit web-site
www.beatpdtoday.com

Vernon Parks & Recreation Department

GENERAL PHONE NUMBER: 860-870-3520
WEBSITE: www.vernonrec.org
OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday, 8:30am-4:30pm
Fridays, 8:30am-3:00pm
OFFICE LOCATION: 120 South Street, Vernon, CT

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. You may register on-line 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.

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

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

INCLEMENT WEATHER – In the case of inclement weather, the Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to cancel programs for the day. All

decisions on programs will be made by 4:00 pm unless your program starts earlier. A decision will be made by 9:00 am for weekend and morning programs. Please contact the Recreation Office at 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 the Director of Parks and Recreation by calling 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.

Preschool & Youth Programs



MOVE N GROVE

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.

Tuesday Class

January

9:30-10:15 am

\$35 per 4 week session or \$10 drop in

Thursday Class

January 5

9:30-10:15 am

\$35 per 4 week session or \$10 drop in

Vernon Teen Center Dance Room

PRESCHOOL FITNESS

Get your little ones on their feet and ready to have some fun!

This program is for children ages 3-5 yrs. 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 a 4-week program in the winter.

Friday Mornings:

Session 1: January 13-February 4

Session 2: February 10-March 3

9:30-10:15 am

Vernon Teen Center Fitness Room

Fee per session: Res. \$30, Non-Res. \$35

ZUMBA FOR 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.

Thursdays (begins week of January 9)

6:15-7 pm

\$6/class drop in fee

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.

Saturdays

March 11-April 1

10-11 am

Center 375 Gymnasium

Fee: \$35 Res., \$40 Non-Res.

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 10 to February 18 (no class 12/24, 12/31 & 1/14)

Ages 3-5 years old

9:00 am-9:30 am

9:45 am-10:15 am

Center 375 Gym

Fee: Resident \$40, Non-resident \$45

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

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eventsmagazines.com

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

PARKS & RECREATION ... continued from page 17

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

Saturdays, December 10 to February 18

(no class 12/24, 12/31 & 1/14)

Grades K&1

10:30 am-11:15 am

11:30 am-12:15 pm

Center 375 Gym

Fee: Resident \$40, Non-resident \$45

GRADE 2 BEGINNERS BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Full court basketball games are introduced in this instructional format. 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 class is one hour in length. Everyone should arrive at 12:30 pm for the first class.

Saturdays, December 10 to February 18

(no class 12/24, 12/31 & 1/14)

Grade 2

12:30 pm-2:45 pm

Center 375 Gym

Fee: Resident \$40, Non-resident \$45

GRADE 3 & 4 BASKETBALL LEAGUE

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 once a week. Participants will receive a T-shirt. This is an eight week program. Practice is scheduled to begin the week of December 12th.

Girls, grade 3&4

Boys, grade 3&4

Fee: Resident \$50, Non-resident \$55

VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED

Grade 3 & 4 Basketball League cannot begin until we have volunteer coaches for all the teams in that league. Extensive basketball knowledge/playing experience are not required. If you can provide a safe, fun and educational experience while setting nothing less than the best example for players, you could be a great coach.

BOYS & GIRLS RECREATION BASKETBALL LEAGUE

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. Teams practice on a weeknight with games 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 mid-late December

Games begin early-mid January and go through mid-March.

Grades 5-8 will play some games against other towns.

Boys, Grades 5 & 6

Girls, Grades 5 & 6

Boys, Grades 7 & 8

Girls, Grades 7 & 8

Boys, Grades 9-12

Fee: Vernon Resident Only \$50

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FRIDAY DECEMBER 2, 2016

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 are not required. If you can provide a safe, fun and educational experience while setting nothing less than the best example for players, you could be a great coach.



DANCE PROGRAM

Dance classes will be held continuously in 4 week sessions, beginning the week of January 9. Each week progresses for a performance in 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.vernon-ct.gov.

Monday Classes:

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

Ballet/Lyrical (ages 8-10) 6:15-7pm

Tuesday Classes:

Move-n-Groove (ages 18-36mths) 9:30-10:15am

Ballet/Lyrical (ages 10-12) 5:15-6pm

PreSchool Combo (ages 3-4) 5:30-6:15pm

Hip Hop (ages 10-12) 6-6:45pm

Jazz/Pom (ages 7+) 6:45-7:30pm

Thursday Classes:

Move-N-Groove (ages 18-36 mths) 9:30-10:15am

PreSchool Combo (ages 3-4) 1-1:45pm
 Tap/Jazz (ages 5-7) 4:45-5:30pm
 Hip Hop (ages 7-10) 5:30-6:15pm
 Boys Hip Hop (ages 6+) 5:30-6:15pm
 Tap Int/Adv. (ages 10+) 6:15-7pm
 Hip Hop (ages 13+) 7-7:45pm
 Ballet/Lyrical (ages 13+) 7:45-8:45pm

Saturday Classes:

Beginner Preschool Combo (ages 2-3) 9-9:30am
 Tap/Jazz/Tumble (ages 5-7) 9:30-10:15am
 PreSchool Combo ages 3-4 10:15-11am
 Hip Hop/Tap (ages 8+) 11-11:45am

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



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 guardian's signature before any activities can be attended. Cost is \$10.

Adult Classes

LOW IMPACT AEROBICS/BODY SCULPTING

This is a low impact aerobics program for those ages 18+ and will be sure to get you a good workout. Ms. Pat will lead participants to move and tone their bodies to various music while at the same time meet new friends. This program runs in 4 week increments.

Tuesdays

Session 1: January 10-31

Session 2: February 7-28

4-5pm

Vernon Teen Center Fitness Room

Fee: Residents \$30, Non-Residents \$35

Instructor: Ms. Pat

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 runs weekly.

Mondays & Wednesdays

7-8pm

Center 375 Gym

Tuesdays & Thursdays

10:15-11:15am

Vernon Teen Center Dance Room

Saturdays

10-11am

Vernon Teen Center Fitness Room

Drop In rate: \$6.00/class

HIP FIT (FORMERLY THE CIZE CLASS)

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 build 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. The program begins in September and runs weekly.

Tuesdays

7:45-8:45pm

Vernon Teen Center Dance Room

Drop In rate: \$6.00/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 rock star 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

7-7:45pm

Vernon Teen Center Fitness Room

Drop In rate: \$6.00/class

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PARKS & RECREATION ... continued from page 19

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 starting October 28th from 7:30-9 pm. 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

Site: 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 9:00P pm 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

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

Entry Information:

- Entries must be submitted by 12:00 pm, December 16, 2016.
- 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.

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 March 3. Winners will be announced mid-March.

FISHING DERBY

Sponsored by: JT'S FLYSHOP; Union, CT
52nd annual Fishing Derby Saturday, May 6th. Valley Falls Pond will be stocked with plenty of trout, so take this opportunity to



introduce your children (ages 15 and under) to fishing when the odds are stacked in their favor. This is a free event. 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

44th Annual 5K Mother's Day Dash on Sunday, May 14th. 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 who 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.

2016-2017 AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

R.E.K. RECREATION AND EDUCATION FOR KIDS

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

Daily Activities

- **Homework/Quiet Activities** - Children may use this time to work on homework, read, or engage in other activities such as

puzzles and quiet games. Books are available at each site but your child is encouraged to bring a favorite book from home to read if they would like. Staff will be available for homework assistance as needed.

- **Recreation** - Children will have plenty of time for active recreation each day. Outdoor time on the school's 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!
- **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 2016-17 school year is \$13.50 per regular day, and \$19.50 per early dismissal day. The first month's payment is due in full at the time of registration. Further payments are due on the 15th of each month and may be made online, by mail, and at your site or 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.

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 activities throughout the day to help your child fit a lot of fun into their days off. 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

continued on page 22

PARKS & RECREATION ... continued from page 21

through your child's school prior to vacations. You may also register online (please note if you register online you will also be asked to complete a registration form with emergency contacts and pertinent medical information when you drop your child off at camp).

Picnic/Pavillon/Lodge Rentals

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

VALLEY FALLS PARK: Located on Valley Falls Road, Valley Falls Park contains picnic areas out in the field and a pavilion.

Fees vary by picnic areas and length of rental time.

HENRY PARK: Located at 120 South Street, Henry Park has two picnic grove areas and three picnic sites. Fees vary by picnic areas and length of rental time. The Tower at Fox Hill is a picturesque wedding spot and can be rented for \$50. Also located in Henry Park is the Russell G. Hartmann Pavilion. The pavilion is 40 feet by 60 feet. This is the perfect spot to hold a family reunion, baby shower, birthday party and much more. The fee to rent the pavilion is \$35 per hour.

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

For more Rental details and pricing, call 860-870-3520.

ADDITIONAL PICNIC AREAS TO ENJOY...

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

TEEN CENTER RENTAL

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

Big Community Room:

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

Gymnasium:

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

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

Sponsorships

RECREATION 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, and exposure to approximately 400 different children and adults.

Please contact Steve Krajewski or Rich Durkee at 870-3520.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Any businesses 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 who use the Park. There are numerous special events that take place in the Park. There isn't a more visible place in Vernon, take advantage of this opportunity.

DISC GOLF SIGN SPONSORS

The opportunity to sponsor a sign on the brand new Vernon Ecker Disc Golf Course, located on the Ecker Hill property is available.

To sponsor a tee sign which is 6x18 would cost \$200 for two years. Your business will be on the tee sign along with a visual design of the hole and the number of the hole.

There are only a few tee sign left so if you're interested please contact Steve Krajewski at the P&R office at 860-870-3520.

Vernon Youth Services Bureau



During the months of July and August, the Vernon Youth Services Bureau coordinated a Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program (SYELP) which was made possible by Capital Workforce Partners, the region's workforce development board and funded by the State of Connecticut. Fifteen local students were able to gain important employability skills and obtain hands on learning at various work sites in town. Participants worked a total of 120 hours and they were paid minimum wage.

The first week consisted of the "academic" portion of the program where students learned how to write a resume and cover letter, how to complete job applications, how to prepare for job interviews and how to research career clusters of interest to them. They also participated in mock interviews with the Rockville High School principal and Director of Youth Services.

Participants were also able to hear from a couple of guest speakers. A representative from United Bank talked to participants about their "dream jobs" and the importance of staying in school. She also talked about the process of opening savings/checking accounts, the importance of saving money, creating good credit and making a good impression in order to utilize their program supervisors as a reference later on.

They also heard from the vice president of a Background Screening and Employment Verification company about essential work qualities and what employers are looking for when they hire new staff. He talked about the importance of a neat application and resume, interview tips, and the process of background checks as a very common applicant screening tool.

Friends of Rockville Public Library

COOKIE SALE

The Friends of Rockville Public Library will be holding their annual cookie sale on Saturday, December 17th from 10-1 in the Peck Room of the library at 52 Union St.

Rockville. Platters can be ordered by calling the library at 860-875-5892 x 100. Each 2 lb. platter of homemade cookies is priced at \$13. Platters can also be picked up on Friday, December 16th from 2-3 pm if

that is more convenient. Proceeds from the sale are used to purchase museum passes for the libraries' patrons as well as helping the library and the community in other ways.

The rest of the program included on site work experience where participants were able to gain valuable hands on work training. Students were placed in the following locations: Vernon Youth Services Bureau, Vernon Parks and Recreation Department, Vernon Public Works Department, Vernon Building/Planning department, Vernon Senior Center, Pitkat Congregate Center, Rockville High School custodial department, Walgreens, and the Academy of Art and Learning.

The work environment encouraged these students to interact socially with kids that they wouldn't normally hang around with and, for other kids, it allowed them to earn some money to buy clothes for school, help their parents with household bills and purchase other items that they wouldn't normally have. In addition, the town was able to benefit from 1800 hours of service to the community!!

Kim McTighe, the SYELP Program Supervisor, reported that 5 participants were able to obtain part time positions as a result of their excellent work during the Summer Youth Employment program:

- One student was hired to continue working at Walgreens.
- One student will be working at the Youth Services Bureau.
- Two students will continue to work at the Academy of Art and Learning.
- One student is being hired by the Town of Vernon Public Works Fleet Management department.

The town employees who supervised these students are to be commended for going over and above what is expected of them. Every supervisor not only modeled appropriate work skills but also took the participants "under their wings" to mentor them, learn about who they are and allow them to have a very positive first work experience.

The program ended with a celebratory brunch to acknowledge the participants who successfully completed the program. Mayor Champagne acknowledged their hard work and thanked each of the participants for their service to the Town of Vernon. He presented each of the students with a Certificate of Appreciation and each of the students also received a backpack full of school supplies.

Rockville Public Library

We've been working at making updates to library services. Most of the changes are a result of the requests that you, the patrons, have asked for. One big change is that we are expanding our public internet computers in the Adult Department from five to seven and allowing two hours on each computer instead of one.

Another new enhancement is the ability to sign up for any library programs online. Simply click on the calendar icon on our homepage (www.rockvillepubliclibrary.org) and find the program or event you want to attend. Click on the register button and you can sign up. You will get an email confirmation and you can ask for a reminder to be sent closer to the program date.

We are in the process of setting up an online reservation system for our museum passes. Using the online system means that RPL cardholders can reserve a pass up to 2 weeks in advance and print the pass at home. This will allow more people to be able to use the passes as they won't be checked out for three days as they are now. There will be some limitations. Check on our website for information as we will have all of the how-to steps on the passes page. We also encourage you to sign up for our eNewsletter. This monthly email keeps you up to date on all library happenings and we can also send out blasts for emergency closings or other issues. Send an email to sredfern@biblio.org to be added to the mailing list.



The end of the year will be a busy time for us as we have events and year-end fundraising happening. On Saturday, December 3rd from 2:00-4:00 we will have the opening reception for our 2nd Community Tree Festival. Community groups and businesses will have decorated tabletop trees in various themes. The trees are on display at RPL from December 3rd until December 17th. The trees can be bid upon during that time and the highest bidder at 1:00 pm on December 17th will win the tree.

On Sunday, December 4th the RHS Carolers will present a holiday-themed concert here at the library.

This program has always been very well attended. The program will start at 1:00 pm and refreshments will be provided. Later on in the month there will be a Holiday Card craft program which has also been very popular. The Children's Department will be doing a craft program making a snowman thermometer. Check out the website for more information on all events in December and January.

Lastly, our Annual Appeal Fundraiser will be mailed out in early December. This appeal is the major fundraising event that we do here at RPL. As you know, the town provides about half of our funding and the remainder comes from our 112 year old endowment, gifts, and fundraising events. So, watch your mail for the Annual Appeal Fund mailing or come into the library to pick up a packet. Donations can also be made online.

Vernon Senior Center

26 Park Place / 860-870-3680



We hope you will join us at the Vernon Senior Center. Stop by sometime and sign up for one of our many activities or programs that are available. Sign up for our Newcomers group and join us for a tour and presentation. To view our monthly newsletter and calendar, go to the Town of Vernon's website, 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 and events.

Beginning November 14th we will have Mah Jongg lessons, taught by Gail Sokolov. These classes run for 6 weeks. Call the Center to sign up to learn this fun game!

Starting on November 15th the Hartford Veterans Center will be opening a Community Access Point at the Vernon Senior Center. Every Tuesday from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm there will be free counseling for all veterans who served our country in combat zones. Please call the Veterans Center at 860 563-8800 to set up an

appointment if you know of or are a veteran who might need these services.

EVENTS TO WATCH FOR

Aging Gracefully Part 3 – November 16th at 1:00 pm; AARP Safe Driving Class- November 17th at 11:30 am; Bright Nights Senior bus trip and dinner - December 8th; Winter Wonderland Holiday party – December 14th. Call the Center to sign up for these events!

The Senior Center is open Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. Stop by or give us a call and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have about our center. We look forward to meeting you!

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The Hartford Veterans Center

Community Access Point / Vernon, CT

The Hartford Veterans Center is one of the most premiere Vet Centers in the country. Starting on November 15th 2016, the Vet Center is opening a Community Access Point (CAP) at the Vernon Senior Center every Tuesday from 9:30 am until 3:00 pm. The purpose of the CAP is to offer free counseling for all veterans who proudly served our nation in combat zones. Also, anyone who has ever been victimized by military sexual trauma will be well taken care of.

SERVICES OFFERED	INFORMATION ON	COMBAT ZONES
Individual Counseling	Veterans License Plates	WW II
Group Counseling	Veterans Driver License	American Merchant Marines
Marital/Family Counseling	Agent Orange/Burn Pit Registration	Korean War
Couples Counseling	Ct State Benefits	Vietnam
Access to VA Health Care System	Free Federal Parks Passes for DAV's	Lebanon
Assistance with VA Benefits	Free State Parks Passes for DAV's	Grenada
Discharge Upgrade Info	Service Dogs	Panama
Community Referrals	Free Massages/Acupuncture	Persian Gulf
Specialized Services to Women Vets	Employment	Somalia
Community Presentations (films/speakers)	Vacations for all Vets	Yugoslav Operations
	Free "Getaway" Programs	GWOT/OIF/OEF

If you are or know of a veteran who might need our services, please call the Hartford Vet Center at (860) 563-8800. All information disclosed in counseling sessions is held in strictest confidence. Please call and start your healing process today.



Veterans Administration

Hartford Veterans Center

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 Community Presentations
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VVC (Vernon Volunteers' Collaborative) Awards & Scholarships



Vernon Garden Club scholarship winner Christian Wheeler.
Courtesy Vernon Garden Club

A number of our Vernon Volunteers' Collaborative organizations give scholarships to area students or grants for local projects. They are another way we support the community.

FRIENDS OF THE VERNON ARTS COMMISSION

The Friends support and supplement the work of the Vernon Arts Commission. Each year they award scholarships to Rockville High School graduating seniors interested in studying the arts in college. This year the \$500 scholarship went to Renee Rogan.

VERNON GARDEN CLUB

The VGC's mission is to stimulate an interest in horticulture, aid in the protection of native trees, birds, wildflowers and promote community spirit, beautification and civic betterment. Each year they award a scholarship to a graduating senior at a local high school who will be pursuing a career in horticulture or a related field. This year the \$500 Scholarship went to Christian Wheeler, a 2016 RHS graduate heading to Western CT State University.

NEW ENGLAND CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

The Alden Skinner Camp (Sons of Union Veterans), who operate the museum, each year award the Arthur Lyons Scholarship in honor of a member who supported the organization through some lean times. This year the \$500 scholarship was awarded to Shannon Guibalt, a senior at Rockville High School.

VERNON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The VEA awarded six "mini" grants in August to local educators, totaling almost \$3,000. The Foundation is a nonprofit that provides financial support for educational projects in Vernon's public schools. Four grants went to teachers in Maple Street School and two went to teachers in the Rockville High School. Grants covered such projects as math workshop binders, a field trip to the science center, a visiting artist and sports as a learning tool.

VVC Support Your Local Nonprofit



Geologist Gary Robbins explains how Vernon's landscape was created on NCLT's Talcott Ravine walk. By Gail Faherty.

WHAT WE DID FOR YOU THIS YEAR

Whether you have children, enjoy walking, the arts, or want to feel part of the town you have in one way or another been touched by the organizations of the Vernon Volunteers' Collaborative. Which were important to you and your family?

- Art classes for both children and adults were provided by Arts Center East.
- Many art programs for adults and children are quietly sponsored by the Friends of the Vernon Arts Commission.
- The New England Civil War Museum encouraged children to take part in a Civil War Encampment at the Strong Family Farm.
- Guided hikes were offered by the



Third grade class at Maple Street School sharing stories from their published book.
Courtesy Vernon Education Foundation.

Northern Connecticut Land Trust at several of their properties.

- Strong Family Farm provided a taste of farm life including programs for children, a farm stand and the recent Fall Harvest Festival.

- Concerts in Rockville were organized and sung by The Vernon Chorale.
- The 4-H Fair at the Tolland County Agricultural Center connected young and old with farm life.
- Unseen was the support of teachers and students by the Vernon Education Foundation with new books and mini grants to teachers.
- Hikers and bikers on the Rail Trail appreciate the plantings created and maintained by the Vernon Greenways Volunteers.
- Part of being a community is a connection to its past. For 50 years the Vernon Historical Society has connected us through their programs and exhibits.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR US THIS SEASON

Our organization is primarily funded from membership, donations, grants, fundraisers and assistance from the Town of Vernon. The holiday season is traditionally a time of giving and the organizations that help make Vernon special for you need your support. At VernonVolunteers.org there is a description of each organization. Choose one or more that touched you this year and either become a member or make a donation. Click the 'Join' tab for a link to member organizations for either joining or donating.

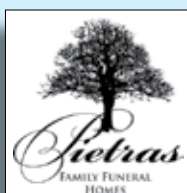
Visit our new website at: <http://www.vernon-ct.gov/>
We hope you will find our new website to be a useful tool to find updated information and explore our wonderful community.

*May the magic and wonder of the Holiday Season
Stay with you throughout the coming year.*



*You are In Our Thoughts
During the Holiday Season
and New Year.
Sincerely,
Jessica & Philip Pietras*

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Philip & Jessica Pietras, Jennifer A. West, Jacqueline L. Teske, Corrine M. Jones, Haley S. Bohadik.
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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	

VVC Small Triumphs



Vernon Greenways Volunteers rest on completed bridge.

Not every project is a big one and many of the smaller ones are worth noting. Following are some of the accomplishments of Vernon Volunteers' Collaborative organizations this year.

EXTENDING DART HILL SOUTH TRAIL

With the approved development of the Lyman property on Route 83, Vernon received permission to extend the Dart Hill South Trail along the east side of the Hockanum River. As part of this

project a bridge was built in September by GEORGE ARTHUR, DON BELLINGHAM and the Vernon Greenways Volunteers across a tributary to the Hockanum River. With George's guidance most of the work was accomplished in a single day. The Friends Of The Hockanum River Linear Park provided funding for the project from a DEEP grant.

WATER FOR GATEWAY GARDEN

The Vernon Garden Club planted the Vernon Circle Gateway Garden in 1990. Since then, they have maintained that garden as well as the Lafayette Square Gateway Garden welcoming visitors to Vernon and Rockville with a colorful floral display. The Vernon Circle garden has been a challenge to maintain as water had to be brought in for frequent summer watering. After much lobbying, a water line was extended to the garden making the volunteers very happy.

VERNON HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLISHES ITS OWN HISTORY

This fall the Vernon Historical Society celebrated its 50th Anniversary with an Open House in October. As part of the preparation, Town Historian ARDIS ABBOTT researched the Society's archives and published a booklet on the 50 year history of the organization; free to members and guests.

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The Strong Family Farm's new farm stand opened this summer.

**FARM STAND OPENS WITH
LOCALLY GROWN PRODUCE**

The Strong Family Farm opened their farm stand in July funded by a CT Department of Agriculture Viability matching grant to support CT grown products. Products for sale included locally grown produce, eggs, bread, pies, honey, maple syrup and jams. All profits help fund programs at the non-profit farm while also supporting local farmers.

For more VVC news items visit VernonVolunteers.org/news.

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VVC Big Things Coming

Here are some of the larger projects that Vernon Volunteers' Collaborative organizations are working on for 2017.



Sharon Chaples' painting of the Valley Falls Farm Stable, circa 1912.
The future home of the Heritage Center.

VALLEY FALLS HERITAGE CENTER

The Friends of Valley Falls are creating a Heritage Center in the stable that will tell the story of Valley Falls Park and Farm. Funds have been raised, renovations being made to accommodate visitors and displays created to tell the story. The area is rich with history, but the focus will be on the Beach family and gentleman's farm era.

SPANNING THE HOCKANUM

The plan of the Hockanum River Linear Park is to connect all the trails from Ellington to East Hartford. A missing link is connecting the Ellington trail, which follows the old rail bed on the west side, to the Dart Hill trails on the east side of the river. Next spring the Friends of the Hockanum River Linear Park and the Vernon Greenways Volunteers, led by Town Engineer Dave Smith, will install a Suspended Bridge joining the trails across the Hockanum River just above the Water Treatment Plant.

NEW HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS

The Vernon Historical Society is involved in projects to publish four books.

- Jean Luddy, the Museum Director, is working with Vernon schools to update and publish
- "Vernon, Our Town," which will be given to third graders as part of their Local History unit.
- In 1936 a history of Vernon and Rockville was written as part of the WPA Writers' Project, but never published. It will be made available in the New Year.
- VHS's Jim Ashe and Carolyn Blouin are publishing a "Then and Now" photo book.
- The Society is also supporting Richard Symonds, Jr's "Water Powered Mill Sites In Vernon, CT" - soon to be released.

OPEN SPACE

Property acquisitions seem to take forever as they move through State and Federal agencies. Funds have been approved for the Tolland County Agricultural Center's purchase of Gunther Farm and the purchase of Meetinghouse Hill by a local group. These open space projects should be completed in 2017. Learn more at VernonVolunteers.org.



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**Gayle A. Block, D.V.M., M.S.
Lisa DeRosa, D.V.M.
Theresa Lamontagne, D.V.M.**

Vernon Public Schools – Buildings

Have you seen our schools recently? This past summer there were many renovations and updates completed and our schools are looking beautiful! Please stop by, take a look and admire Vernon Public Schools!

ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL –

- Upgrades to the HVAC controls in the athletic area
- Multiple roof repairs throughout the building
- Ag-Science shop upgrades that include new dust collection system, painting, ceiling tiles, and electrical infrastructure upgrades
- New ceiling tiles in the main hall of the Agricultural Science and Technology Education building
- Athletic fields upgrades that include field analysis on lower fields, new perimeter fencing, new scoreboards
- Athletic fields backstops and dugouts on upper fields are in process

VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL –

- Upgrades to the athletic fields
- New roof over auditorium, cafeteria and gymnasium
- Upgraded fire alarm system

CENTER ROAD SCHOOL –

- Repointing exterior wall on three story portion is in process
- Reconfigured parking lot and bus drop off

LAKE STREET SCHOOL –

- Installation of fence around playscape



MAPLE STREET SCHOOL –

- Installed HVAC systems in basement classrooms
- Patched area of asphalt where old oil tank was
- Staff/Parent Parking across the street at the former Salvation Army Store

NORTHEAST SCHOOL –

- Removed 10,000 gallon in-ground oil tank
- Replaced roof
- Installed additional security cameras

SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL –

- Replaced roof
- Repaired and painted exterior of building
- Expanded and paved parking lot
- Replaced outside basketball court

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Rockville High School – Visit from German Students



German Exchange Students
with Mayor Champagne

VISIT TO ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BY STUDENTS FROM MARTIN-LUTHER-GYMNASIUM, FRANKENBERG, SAXONY (GERMANY):

Monday, September 19, 2016 to Friday, October 7, 2016.

Rockville High School has had a relationship with a high school in Central Saxony (Mittelsachsen) since 1994, when the late Nancy Lister made contact with the Gellert Gymnasium, Hainichen. The two schools received a visit from their partner through the German American Partnership Program (GAPP) every two years, beginning in 1996. When the Gellert Gymnasium was closed due to falling rolls in 2004, the partnership transferred to the Martin-Luther-Gymnasium

in nearby Frankenberg. This 20 year partnership is one of the longest in GAPP and currently the only one in CT.

This year the 12 students from M-L-G were accompanied by Mrs. Ines Buske (GAPP Coordinator) teacher of English and German, and Mrs. Edda Timmel, teacher of Russian. The visitors stayed with the families of Rockville High School students and teachers. They attended Rockville High School classes during their 3 week stay, shadowing their Rockville High School partners for 2 'A' and 2 'B' days, making presentations to Rockville High School and Vernon Center Middle School classes and had some special lessons from Rockville High School teachers.

The group attended welcome and farewell parties (Sept. 18, Oct. 7), met Mayor Champagne, attended a Vernon Board of Education Meeting, visited the State Capitol and Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford, the UConn campus at Storrs, the Vernon Police Department and went on field trips to New York City and Boston. The host families had individual activities planned also. Many of the Rockville High School host students are eager to pay a return visit to Frankenberg in April 2017.



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Vernon Public Schools – Rockville High School



Sophomore Youssef Mezrioui will have his poem published in the 2016 edition of *The Apprentice Writer*, a literary journal of poems, stories, and personal essays by high school students from across the nation. This year, journal editors selected only 60 works from 2000 submissions.

The *Apprentice Writer* has a circulation of 11,000 and is distributed each September. It will also be available online. In its thirty-fourth year, the journal is edited and published by the Susquehanna University Writers Institute. Congratulations to Youssef!

Top 10 Graduates of Rockville High School Class of 2016



The top ten graduates from the Rockville High School Class of 2016 excelled academically, challenging themselves in all curriculum areas, completing numerous Honors, Advanced Placement, and Early College Experience courses. Their education and experiences at Rockville High School motivated their selection of prestigious colleges

and majors that include education, business, and various STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fields. Our graduates are attending prestigious colleges such as UCONN, Princeton, BYU, UCLA, U of Hartford, and more. In addition, they were very involved in athletics, community service, and extra-curricular activities such as band, chorus, and drama. They were school role models as members

of the National Honor Society, the LINK Crew, and the Unified Sports program, numerous athletic teams, and community organizations.

These 2016 graduates exemplify the Rockville High School Core Values and Beliefs of developing Responsible, Open-Minded, Critical Thinking, and Knowledgeable members of a 21st century society.

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Vernon's 2016 Champions

Congratulations to the Rockville and Vernon Little League Softball and Baseball All-Star Teams! During post-season play both the Girls 9/10 Softball and Boys 9/10 Baseball All-Stars won their District Championships. Additionally, the Softball team went on to win their Sectionals. Rockville High School sports teams have a lot to look forward to in these successful athletes. Your Town is proud of you for your work ethic, teamwork and dedication to your sport. Keep up the great work!



Photographs provided by Coach Charlie Chatterton and Coach Ross Enamait



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