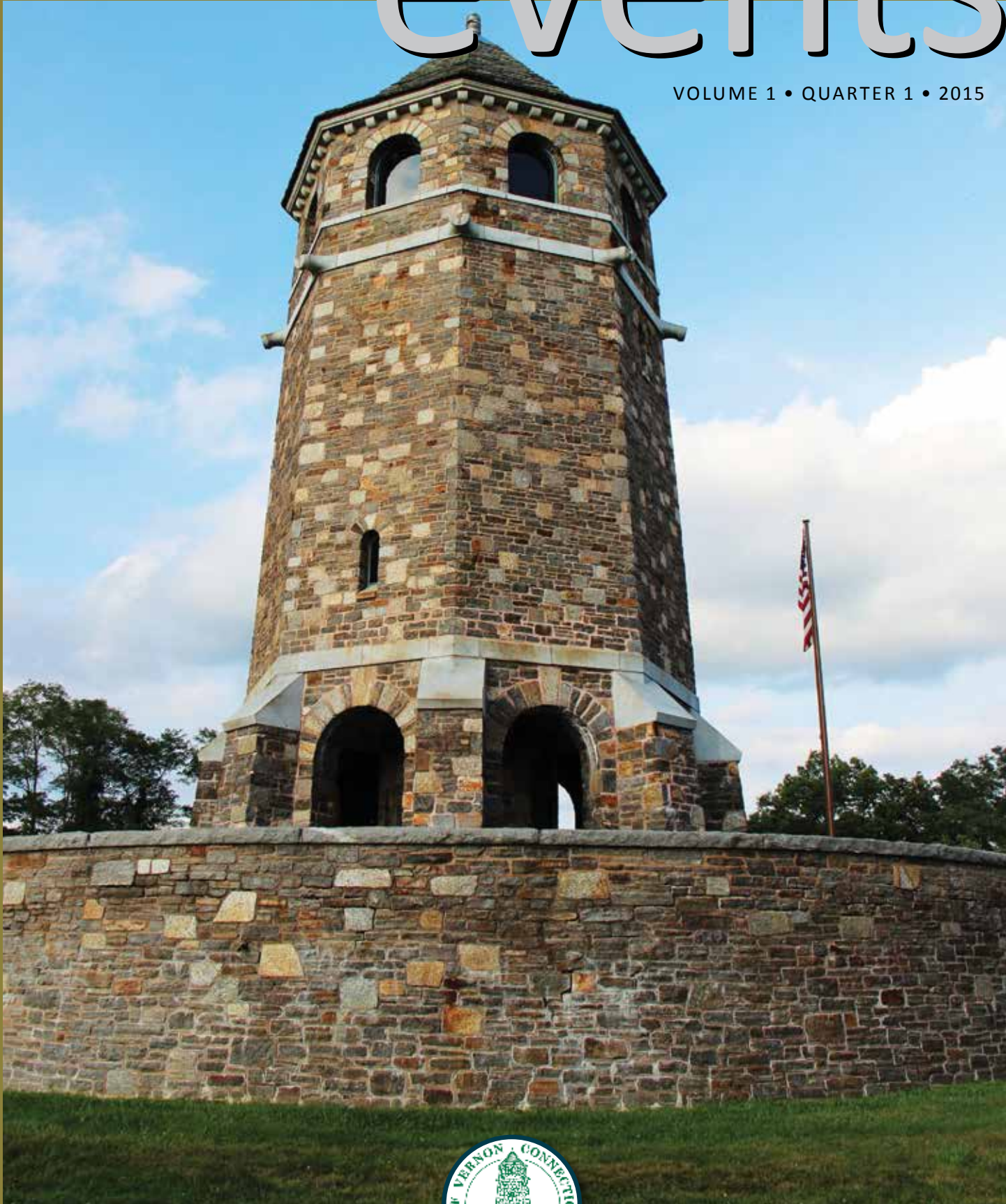


Vernon events

VOLUME 1 • QUARTER 1 • 2015



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The Mayor's Corner

Welcome to the first edition...

of our new Vernon Events Magazine. This magazine was started in Vernon to keep the residents informed about what is happening in our town. The Magazine was started with a small start-up cost but will be paid for through advertising for future issues. Each quarter the magazine will be delivered directly to your door at no cost to you. Additional copies are also available at the Rockville Public Library, Town Hall and the Senior Center.

Vernon has many wonderful things happening.

We have several of our old mills under construction, we are attracting new businesses to town and we are expanding our recreational activities. Ken Kaplan is renovating the Hockanum Mill Complex at 200 West Main Street with multiple uses being considered. Ken Kaplan recently had a grand opening for Kaplan Cycles, a motorcycle repair shop, and he is currently constructing the New England Motorcycle Museum. Loom City Lofts, the former Minterburn Mill / Roosevelt Mills, is under construction and will be turned into apartments. Amerbelle and Daniels Mill have recently received grants from the state to clean the sites up and prepare them for 1st Alliance Lending. 1st Alliance Lending is interested in moving their headquarters to Vernon and will occupy these mills.

The Eckert Hill Disc Golf course was put in last year and the finishing touches will be done in early spring. If you have never played disc golf, it is a wonderful family activity. Eckert Hill Disc Golf is located at the upper fields, behind the community gardens, at Vernon Center Middle School. This year, Parks and Recreation will be looking at putting in an outdoor exercise trail (more information to follow).



Mayor Daniel A. Champagne

Keep this magazine in your kitchen...

and use it as reference material. You'll learn how to sign up for all kinds of activities, and programs every quarter. The Vernon Volunteer Collaborative has plans to feature three of its member organizations each quarter, raising the awareness of their volunteer efforts on your behalf. The opportunities and possibilities of this publication are endless. Take a moment and stop in to the local businesses displayed in this publication, they will appreciate your support. If you are a business owner and want to become a participant contact my office 860-870-3600 for further information.

continued on page 2



THE HEALING IN HARMONY CENTER
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Greater Vernon Holistic Healthfest
Natural Options for Body, Mind and Spirit
Saturday & Sunday, March 28 & 29, 2015
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Vernon Center Middle School, 777 Hartford Turnpike (Route 30), Vernon
For events schedule and more info: www.vernonhealthfest.com
Admission: \$5 for adults Free for children under 16 with a parent
Over 80 tables of practitioners, vendors and artists plus 40 hourly workshops and demonstrations





Produced by The Vernon Youth Services Bureau and Conscious CT.
Proceeds go to Vernon Youth Services to support programs.



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MAYOR'S CORNER ... continued from page 1

This introductory issue will also provide you, our valued citizens, all contact information for our departments to assist you with whatever your concern. Additional information is also available on our website. www.vernon-ct.gov.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Andre J. Garant, Owner/Creator of Photography On Demand / AJG Photoguy for the donation of the Fox Hill Tower photograph that graces the cover of our first edition. We are actively looking for local photographs for future editions that depict the local landscape of Vernon. If you, or someone you know has a photograph they would like to donate please contact my office.

Take a moment, see if you don't agree that this magazine will showcase Vernon, our citizens and our enthusiasm to be "On the Move". We have many vacancies to fill on Boards and Commissions and we need you!

I hope you enjoy the first edition of the Vernon Events Magazine!

Dan Champagne, Mayor

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From the Publisher

Welcome Vernon Events!

Essex Printing and Events Magazines welcomes the city of Vernon to its list of cities and towns that generate Events Magazines. The addition of Vernon brings the total number of towns partnering with Essex Printing to produce our magazine count to fifteen. Over 265,000 readers now enjoy getting their local news delivered by us. Over the past 19 years we have become the trusted source of information for town residents along the Shoreline, CT River Valley,

Greater New Haven and now Vernon. Events Magazines has established itself as the one source for all town news including notes from the Mayor, city departments, upcoming community and social events and important happenings that affect everyone in the community. Each Events Magazine brings tremendous value to town residents as well as our advertisers. There is no other vehicle that reaches everyone in town and provides the local information each

resident may be seeking. We encourage our readers to support our advertisers and be sure to tell them you saw their ads in Vernon Events!

We look forward to a successful kick-off of Vernon Events.

Thank you,

William McMinn
President

Essex Printing & Events Magazines

Friends of the Hockanum River Linear Park



George Arthur leads a hike along the Dart Hill North trail.

Grant Award Success! Join us!

The Friends of the Hockanum River Linear Park have a long history of successful grant awards for developing the trails and small parks along the Hockanum River. Since the Friends were organized in 1996, they have received fifteen grant awards totaling \$494,000 for trail development and water quality protection.

The successful development of the popular trail system along the river is the result of the dedicated work of Friends volunteers

and the close collaboration with the Town Parks and Recreation Department. The grants for trail development were funded by the federal Recreational Trails Program, through the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

The most recent award for trail work was received in 2012 for \$175,000 to complete connections along the river with Ellington and Manchester trails. This grant, currently in progress, includes funding for two structures, a bridge across the river near Windsorville Rd, and a boardwalk near Pleasantview Drive. The grant also includes funding for purchase of several conservation easements that are needed to complete some sections of the trails.

The Friends also sponsor informative hikes along the river trail that provide the hiker with information on both the river's eco-systems and the river's history. Trail guide George Arthur and wildlife biologist Jane Seymour have previously led well attended and interesting walks in the Dart Hill area.

The broad goal of a linear park along a river is to create a protective greenway that enhances water quality and brings people back to the river. Would you like to be a part of this river protection and trail planning work? Do you like to make things happen? Join us! We need you. Contact Ann Letendre or Ginny Gingras, 860-875-4623.

Want to Advertise? Call Fred Holloran at 860.391.5725

events

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Vernon Senior Center

26 Park Place / 860-870-3680

Join Us At The Senior Center for a Fun Filled Day! We are extending a warm welcome to all Vernon Seniors to join us at the Center. There are a variety of programs & activities for everyone's taste. Many seniors say the Center is their home away from home. Come, make new friends & enjoy yourself whatever your interest may be. For on-going activities, check the Town's Website.

Special Upcoming Events

Monday, March 23rd at 10:30 am

Come and meet Allan's Angels Therapy Dogs. These animals give loving support to patients in nursing homes, hospitals as well as individuals in their own homes.

Thursday, March 26th at 1:30 pm

Newcomer's Club-Join us for a tour of our facility and an overview of programs and activities.

Monday, April 13th at 10:00 am

Remember the TV show "Name that Tune"? Come & compete for prizes as you test your musical skills. Sponsored by Panda Home Care.

Monday, April 13th at 12:00 noon

MCC Presentation about Rogers and Hammerstein and Broadway's Golden Age. You will look at and listen to some highlights of their shows including Oklahoma, Carousel & South Pacific.

Wednesday, April 29th at 12:30 pm

Come for a fun afternoon of pizza & playing the card game, Crazy Whist. No card skills are necessary. Everyone can play. Prizes are awarded. Cost- \$7.

Please call the Senior Center to register for these programs or for more information. To sign up to receive the monthly newsletter by e-mail, go to the Town's Website, www.vernon-ct.gov, click on Departments, then click on Senior Center & follow the prompts.

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Happy Spring!

Volunteering... What's In It For Me?

You know that volunteering supports our community, but volunteering also benefits the volunteer.

Here's how:

- You gain experience that may have transferable job skills. And you build your résumé by showing potential employers you can take initiative and keep busy.
- You gain new skills by trying something you've never done before, and meet people in the community who value you and could be a potential reference.
- For students, volunteering is preparation for college as your contributions help you stand out on your application.
- It can be good exercise, and perhaps most important, you'll feel great about making a difference.



Sorting books for the Vernon Historical Society's annual sale.

What makes Vernon special and gives us our unique character are our open spaces, hiking trails, gardens and parks; our industrial and agricultural heritage; and developing and showcasing the arts. Most of these are thanks to nonprofit organizations

Assessor's Office

David Wheeler, Assessor

The Elderly application period begins February 2 and ends May 15th, 2015. The Town of Vernon offers three elderly programs for those homeowners that are income limited. Please contact the assessor's office for more details. (860) 870-3625.

The 2016 revaluation is quickly approaching. The assessor will be

sending out notices to property owners asking them to verify the details of their property. This will be followed up by an inspection. Any property having building permits taken out or properties that have sold will also be inspected. Accuracy of information is so important to avoid any over assessments or unfair values. Please be receptive when approached by one of our staff

members so we may value everyone's property fairly.

The assessor is most concerned about property values and how the economy has impacted Vernon properties.

There will be many opportunities to ask questions as the process gears up this spring and finishes in December 2016.

run by volunteers. The Vernon Volunteers' Collaborative (VVC) supports these organizations by helping people learn what is available and how they can get involved. The 12 organizations participating in VVC depend on volunteers at every level. Learn about the organizations and volunteer opportunities on our website www.vernonvolunteers.org.



Vernon Greenways Volunteers search for invasive beetles.

There are many tasks that are annual or can even be done from home. Activities can include trail maintenance, graphic arts, greeters at events or updating websites.

If you cannot commit to specific hours we have a Volunteer Pool. Let us know your preferences and skills and we'll email you when one of the organizations has a temporary need for help. Send an email with your interests to jon.roe@comcast.net and we'll include you in VVC's Volunteer Pool.

While you are visiting our website check out our event Calendar and MeetUp Group. Vernon is a Special Place with much to offer. We hope your family will get involved.

Land Trust Preserves Green Spaces for You!



Falls along Talcott Ravine trail off Dobson Road in Vernon

Are you familiar with the non-profit Northern Ct. Land Trust organization serving Vernon, Ellington, Somers, Stafford, Enfield, and East Windsor? You should be, as they are watching out for opportunities to protect and preserve open spaces in your area, and for your enjoyment.

Currently owning over 1400 acres total, there are 100 acres on 7 properties in Vernon, most of which are open to hiking and enjoyment of nature and contiguous with other town or state open areas, such as Valley Falls, Eckers Pond behind Vernon Middle School, or the beautiful

Talcott Ravine (see picture).

Other properties are still used as working farmland. The entirely volunteer organization accepts gifts of land or other assets (which are tax deductible), raises funds for property acquisition, and sponsors hikes and other activities primarily associated with the outdoors and nature subjects. The Trust is always looking for volunteers to help with efforts in those areas plus things like trail development and maintenance, public relations, program planning, and fundraising. Originally the Vernon Land Trust and the Four Town Land Trust, both of which

started in 1987, the current organization was formed by the merger of these groups in 1997 to better serve their towns and residents.

Visit the website at www.northernct-landtrust.org to find activity schedules, volunteer opportunities, contact information, and property descriptions for the areas under the Trust protection, as well as other interesting related links.

Contact us, volunteer or become a member, and help preserve Vernon's wonderful resources.

Town Clerk

Bernice K. Dixon; MCTC, CMC, Town Clerk

Fishing/Hunting and Dog License Notice

Fishing season begins Saturday, April 18th. Resident inland waters fishing licenses for anyone 16 years of age or older who want to fish in ponds, lakes and streams are available in the Town Clerk's Office for \$28.00. Resident marine fishing licenses cost \$10.00. Also available are All Waters Inland and Marine Fishing licenses for \$32.00. The All Waters and Firearms License combination fee is available, for those who qualify, for \$40.00. Senior citizens age 65 and older may get fishing licenses at no cost.

New this year, all License, Hunting Permits and Sportsmen's License Packages for residents ages 16-17 are discounted 50%. All licenses expire December 31st. Additional information is available at www.ct.gov/deep.

Dog Licenses

Dog licenses will be available beginning June 1st in the Town Clerk's Office. A neutered or spayed dog is \$8.00 while an unneutered or unspayed dog is \$19.00. Beginning July 1st a \$1.00 penalty fee will be charged for every month a resident is late in registering their dog. Licenses can be mailed, if proof of a current rabies vaccination and spaying or neutering certificate, if applicable, along with a self-addressed stamped envelope and payment are mailed to the Town Clerk at 14 Park Place, Vernon, CT 06066. If you no longer have your dog, please inform us so that we may update our records. For more information call the Town Clerk's Office at 860-870-3662, visit the Town of Vernon web-site at www.vernon-ct.gov or e-mail us at townclerk@vernon-ct.gov. The office is open 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. On Thursday the office is open 8:30 am to 7:00 pm, and on Friday the office closes at 1:00 pm. Fees are payable by cash or check only.

Rockville Public Library



Do you have a Rockville Public Library (RPL) Card?

Did you know that you can access library services on your home computer? Simply go to the Library website, www.rockvillepubliclibrary.org, and click on the "My Account" button. From there you can request books, renew items on your account and even set up your account to keep a history all of the items you have checked out.

Other resources on the webpage available only to RPL cardholders include educational programs such as Universal Class, which offers over 500 classes and the opportunity for earning CEU's. One can use Learning Express Library to study for career or school exams with options for adults, children, high school,

or college prep centers. Try Mango to learn a foreign language. More than 60 languages are available including Chinese, French, Arabic, and Urdu. There are also 17 languages for English as a second language (ESL) learners.

To receive a weekly email about the newest items in the library, click on the Wowbrary link and sign up. Jobnow is a great link for jobseekers with resume critiques from experts and interview practice. Owners of eReaders or tablets can download books and audio books through the Overdrive link. You can take out up to 5 at a time. They are returned automatically at the end of the lending period. Finally, visit the app store to get the Bibliomation app on your mobile device and use it for any of the online services. You will have to choose RPL as your default library and you are good to go.

We love having our patrons come in to visit; but getting what you want from home is great when we are closed. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook!

Sharon Redfern
Head of Fund Development
Rockville Public Library

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The Town of Vernon Fire Department



Volunteering to protect the people and community of the Town of Vernon since 1855!

The Town of Vernon Fire Department is the largest all volunteer fire department in Tolland County. We are your neighbors, friends and fellow citizens. People just like you serving our community and our neighboring communities in times of need.

We are 120 members strong, responding 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, handling over 900 fire and rescue emergency calls annually. Members range in age from 14 to 80. We operate 6 Engines,

2 Tower Ladders, 2 Heavy Rescues, and 6 Specialty Vehicles out of 5 fire stations.

We are looking for Firefighters, part time paid Ambulance Technicians, Juniors (ages 14 to 17) and Fire Police. No experience is necessary! All that is necessary is a desire to help, a willingness to learn and your availability to train and respond when the need arises.

Volunteer Benefits

- Learn new skills
- Learn CPR
- Become a licensed Emergency Medical Technician EMT
- Learn advanced fire and medical training
- Participate in a Length of Service award program
- Meet new people, make great friends
- Help make a difference in your community

Fire Chief William M. Call would like you to check us out: www.vernonfire.com or www.facebook.com/vernonfiredept. You can e-mail us at: fdrecruitment@vernon-ct.gov

Become A "Hydrant Hero" - Clear Fire Hydrants In Your Neighborhood when covered by snow.

The Vernon Fire Department is offering several American Heart Association CPR Classes and First Aid.

Do you know the signs and symptoms of a Heart Attack or Stroke? Do you know what to do if you or someone you love is having a heart attack or stroke? What if someone is bleeding severely? Did you know that every minute counts? When a person is unconscious, unresponsive and in a sudden death situation their chances of survival are 10% less with every minute that passes without interventions like CPR and the use of an AED.

We have the solution for you! If you have three hours you can learn life saving skills such as what to do when a person chokes, what to do when a person stops breathing or does not have a heart beat, a person is having a medical emergency or is severely injured.

The Vernon Fire Department is offering several American Heart Association CPR classes (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) and First Aid from April through June right here in our community. All classes are held at the Public Safety Complex in Vernon.

Our Volunteer staff of caring certified American Heart Association Instructors will guide you through training to get the skills needed to react quickly and appropriately for all those situations and more. We have manikins and AED trainers and other equipment to teach you.

We care. Don't you? Learn more - knowledge is POWER! Use this email address learncprvfd@yahoo.com for more information or to register for training. A caring Instructor will respond to answer questions or to register you for a class. It's not just calling 911 for help - it is both calling 911 and knowing what to do!

It can make a difference in a life of someone you love!

American Heart Association Courses Offered

Certification Courses / 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Heartsaver CPR (Adult,Child,Infant) April 8 / \$15

Heartsaver CPR (Adult,Child,Infant) April 22 / \$15

Heartsaver First Aid / June 10 / \$15

Participation Courses* 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Family & Friends CPR / May 13 / \$10

Family & Friends CPR / May 20 / \$10

*Participation courses are a "needed to know" NOT a certification course

The Greater Vernon Holistic Healthfest

Discover Your Premium Source For Holistic Health Options

The Greater Vernon Holistic Healthfest returns for the 7th time on March 28-29, as one of the state's largest educational fairs on holistic medicine.

Many of us are interested in holistic practices, but the number of choices and the time needed to research each option to make informed decisions can be overwhelming and confusing. Enter the Greater Vernon Holistic Healthfest! Held every two years in partnership with the Town of Vernon, Youth Services Bureau, the Healthfest is a premier source for exploring natural and holistic medicine, offering more than 80 exhibitors and 40 workshops. Proceeds from the fair benefit Vernon Youth Services programming. Exhibitors and speakers come from all over the state and represent practitioners with reputations for providing

scientifically-documented therapies and products. Holistic approaches include: green living, chiropractic, yoga, massage, integrative medicine, naturopath, nutrition, hypnotherapy, medical intuition, art therapy, herbs and supplements and natural foods. To support these practices, you'll also find crystals, jewelry, books, DVDs, candles, aromatherapies and much more.

At this year's Authors' Table, you can talk to some of the state's leading authors on holistic healing and wellness. From children's books and teen leadership to inspirational and self-help, authors will be available for autographs and discussions on their perspective on wellness.

After you've visited our exhibitors and authors, after you've joined one of our

informative workshops, you'll be pleased to visit our local restaurant vendors for a nutritious and fully-satisfying meal, and there are plenty of healthy snack choices!

Between practitioners, product vendors, workshops and authors, you'll gain a much greater understanding of how holistic modalities can enhance your overall well-being. Come learn about your natural health options and make informed decisions about what's right for you.

The Healthfest is held at Vernon Center Middle School, 777 Hartford Turnpike, 10am-4pm, March 28 & 29. Admission is \$5. For more information, visit: <http://vernonhealthfest.com>.

Strong's Family Farm

How the IRS Helps Strong Family Farm's "Chicken Run"

Most organizations are filled with dread when they receive mail sent by the Internal Revenue Service. Not the Strong Family Farm on West Street in Vernon. After months of waiting, they recently received official notification of their designation as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. That gets them one very big step closer to their goal of transforming the 135 year-old farm into an agricultural education center for our community to enjoy.



Among the benefits of 501(c)3 status is that all donations made to the Strong Family Farm are considered to be charitable, and therefore are fully tax-deductible. There are also many grants they are now eligible for, which will help in

repairing the barn, as well as creating educational gardens, walking paths, a fenced-in animal area, and a parking area for visitors.

On April 12th, they will be hosting the 2nd Annual Strong Family Farm Chicken Run/Walk, sponsored by many businesses including L. Bissell & Son, Clay Furniture, Swiss Laundry, Garden Barn, Ohanesian/Lecours, Risley Realty, Dan Villeneuve Photography and Fish Books' Running Rooster.



This is the first town wide family fun event of the season which includes a children's race, sponsor booths, and animals. It is a great way to welcome the baby chicks to the farm that are part of the Adopt-A-Chicken program. It is fun for everyone, not just the runners and walkers. Last year over 200 people participated in an exciting morning. This year it will be bigger and better than ever, so why not get outdoors and greet the spring here at the farm?

For more information, or to join the Strong Family Farm, please go to www.strongfamilyfarm.org. To sponsor or register to run/walk in the 2nd Annual Chicken Run/Walk, go to www.strongfamilyfarmchickenrun.org. You can also contact the farm at (860) 874-9020 or email info@strongfarm.org.

The Public Works Department

The Public Works Department provides a wide range of services. The Department is led by a Director, three Foremen, a Refuse/Recycling Supervisor and a Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance Supervisor, who supervise 38 employees. An Administrative Secretary, Administrative Clerk and a Clerk Dispatcher staff the Public Works Office. One of the three foremen also serves as the Town Tree Warden who oversees problems and supervises the trimming, care and removal of town-owned trees.



Clerk/Dispatcher Anne-Marie Carlson; Administrative Secretary Marie Michaels; and Administrative Clerk Diane McCabe

The maintenance and repair of approximately 125 miles of town-owned roads, storm sewers on town-owned roads and rights-of-way, refuse and recycling collection, operation of the Transfer Station, all traffic and street sign maintenance, snow plowing and ice removal, street sweeping and maintenance, and the general maintenance of 26 town-owned buildings and properties are just a few of the many priorities for which the Public Works Department is responsible.

The Public Works Department also provides special services such as scheduled bulky/metal pickups, the spring sweeping program and fall leaf collection. The Hotline (860-870-3506) gives residents up-to-date information on services provided by the department. A detailed listing of all services performed by the Department is available on the Town website.



Pete Griffiths, Refuse/Recycling Supervisor; Ron Levesque, Road Foreman; Jeff Schambach, Road Foreman; Mark Dziejdzinski, Road Foreman; Robert Kleinhans, Public Works Director; Dwight Ryniewicz, Vehicle and Equipment Supervisor

In May, the Department will start on work included in the Six Year Road Bond. An updated listing of streets that will be worked on will be available on the website. Work will continue until October. The schedule may be modified due to weather conditions.



The Town Transfer Station has been recently upgraded. New signage and expanded recycling opportunities are available. Many items are accepted for free and do not require a punch-card or permit. A pamphlet outlining services offered is available during operating hours at the Transfer Station or at the Public Works Office at 375 Hartford Turnpike which is open weekdays from 7 am to 3:30 pm.

Public Works COMMUNITY DAY!

Saturday, May 30 / 9 am to 1 pm / Public Works Facility, 375 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon

Shred Event

(maximum 3 boxes) - Vernon residents will be able to safeguard personal information by shredding unneeded documents.

Alert Vernon

Vernon's new Community Notification System - Sign up to receive important alerts by text, e-mail or voicemail.

Equipment Show & Demonstrations

See large equipment up close. Children with adult supervision will have an opportunity to get behind the wheel of the big rigs. Meet Public Works staff who will be available to educate and answer questions from the public. Learn about stormwater management and reducing polluted runoff.

Senior Center

Learn what programs our Senior Center has to offer and have a look at their new bus.

A Non-Perishable Food Item Or Cash Donation Will Be Collected To Benefit The Hvcc Food Pantry

Water Pollution Control

Home owners that have septic systems should be aware of what truly should go down the drain or toilet. When the septic tank is pumped, the septic pumper will let the home owner know what condition the system is in and inform them what they found in the tank that will cause problems if not corrected.

Grease and “flushable” wipes are the two major things that shouldn't be there. The incentive for the home owner to stop this practice is to make the septic system last as long as possible (save money) and to prevent any problems that could occur (surprise backups). With a little care the septic system will live a long life and backups will never occur.

The same approach should be taken if you are connected to a municipal sewer. Just because it goes down the drain doesn't mean it belongs there. Grease can coat pipes and eventually restrict or block flow. Most of the time this occurs in the house lateral before it reaches the collection system. If grease does travel that far, it can collect in large chunks. These chunks can break off from where they are formed and wreak havoc downstream. Flushable wipes can also collect in low flow areas of the collection system and create blockages. Separately or together, grease and wipes can travel to a pump station where they can clog a pump. This can cause a backup of sewage into unsuspecting homes. Sounds like somebody else's problem? Municipalities are struggling to control these issues and are spending manpower and capital to do so. They need your help!

Remember the Golden Rule:

Only flush number one, number two and toilet paper. Everything else goes in the trash - especially Grease and Wipes.

Town of Vernon
www.vernon-ct.gov

Town Hall
Memorial Building
14 Park Place
Vernon, CT 06066

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

Vernon Parks & Recreation Department

New website & registration site! 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 Dziedzinski	Park Maintainer..... Kevin Clements
Assistant Director..... Steve Krajewski	Park Maintainer..... Mitch Reid	Park Maintainer..... Nick Wheelock
Administrative Assistant ... Diane Garnelis	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 www.vernonyouthfootball.com
Girls Youth Lacrosse / Jim Peters 860-966-7589	

Registration & 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.

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 or Visa.

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 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 photosite at www.flickr.com/photos/vernonpr.

PRESCHOOL & YOUTH PROGRAMS

MOVE TO THE MUSIC

A wonderful group music and movement class for children ages 2-3 years. Adult Participation Required. Children will sing, clap and move to the beat.

Mondays

March 2-April 27 (no 4/20)

9:45-10:30am

Vernon Teen Center Fitness Room

Fee: Residents \$50 / Non-Residents \$55

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 an 8-week program.

Fridays

April 24-June 12

9:30-10:15am

Vernon Teen Center Fitness Room

Fee: Residents \$50 / Non-Residents \$55

PEE WEE TRACK

This program is open to children ages 3 to 6 years old. Learn the fundamentals of track running. Here is the opportunity to meet new friends, release that bundle of energy and have fun learning the sport behind running! Participants will play fun drills and activities to develop an appreciation and love for running track. All participants will receive a T-shirt. NOTE: this is now an 8-week program. If a class needs to be made up due to weather, it might be held on a different day of the week.

Thursdays

April 23- June 11

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

Ages 5-6: 6:20-7:05p.m.

Rockville High School Track

Fee: Residents \$55 / Non-Residents \$60

SPORTS NUTZ

This instructional program teach the fundamentals of four different sports (basketball, baseball, soccer, and track and field) to children ages 3-5 years old, using a variety of fun drills and activities designed

to develop athletic skills and a love for the game. The program focuses on the most basic fundamentals of the sports. Note: this is a 4-week program.

Saturdays

May 2-May 30 (no class 5/22)

10-11am

Center 375 Gymnasium

Fee: Residents \$35 / Non-Residents \$40

PEE WEE BASEBALL

An instructional, coed program for children ages 5-8, that teaches the fundamentals of baseball to young players using a variety of fun drills and activities designed to develop skills and a love for the game. Rockville High coach Greg Caron and the RHS players provide instruction and discuss the importance of having fun and good sportsmanship.



The program meets for 4 weeks. Class size is limited! Deadline is April 7.

Saturdays

April 11- May 2

10-11 a.m.

Rockville High School Baseball Field

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

KARATE

This karate program is for children PreK through Grade 5. Martial Arts will help your child develop self-defense, self-control, self-discipline and confidence. Trained instructors, under the direct supervision of Kempo Master Rod Fuller of Hidden Dragon Karate, will teach the program. Program runs for 6 weeks.

Wednesdays

Session 1: March 11-April 22

(no 4/15)

Session 2: April 29-June 3

PreK-2: 6-6:30 pm

Grades 3-5: 6:45-7:15pm

Vernon Teen Center

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

VERNON TRACK CLUB

The Vernon Parks and Recreation Department will be sponsoring a track program for boys and girls ages 6-14. This program has track meets with neighboring towns (Manchester, S.Windsor, Ellington), which requires you to transport your child to and from those towns. NOTE: Away meets may run on a different day of the week. Participants are required to practice at least one day, two is preferred. Practices are NOT made up in the event of inclement weather.

Mondays & Wednesdays

April 20-June 10

5:30-6:30pm (meet nights go until 7:30pm)

Rockville High School Track

Fee: Residents \$50 / Non-Residents \$55

CHEERLEADING

The Vernon Parks and Recreation will be offering a youth cheerleading program starting April 6th at the Vernon Center Middle School. There will be two age groups, ages 7-9 will meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:25 and ages 10-12 will meet from 7:30-9:00. Participants will learn instruction, fundamentals and tumbling. The program will run for 6 weeks with a cost of \$70 and is for Vernon residents only.

VACATION CAMP

Parks & Rec offers a Vacation Camp during the school's vacation breaks. Vacation Camp is open to children in grades K-5.



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Parks & Recreation ... continued from page 13

The days will be filled with fun games, crafts and outdoor activities. Please send your child with appropriate dress for outdoors, snacks, drinks and a non-refrigerated lunch.

7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Center 375

Fee: Residents \$30/day

Non-Residents \$35/day

RECREATION & EDUCATION FOR KIDS (R.E.K.) AVAILABLE FOR LAKE STREET SCHOOL FAMILIES

After receiving requests to offer the R.E.K. program for Lake Street School students, the Time Has Come! Lake Street students will be bused to the Teen Center at Center 375 to enjoy the afternoon until 6pm. The R.E.K. program's goal is to meet each child's intellectual and physical needs through a variety of creative indoor and outdoor experiences. Everyday activities include: **Homework** – time is set aside each day to complete their homework

Fitness – set time for introducing new and fun ways to achieve physical fitness

Sports – various sports are played

Snack – a nutritious snack is provided

Arts & Crafts – other fun activities are planned

The Parks & Recreation Dept strives to make this program convenient and affordable. Parents must choose and commit to which days of the week their child will attend. Registration forms can be obtained on-line or at the Parks and Recreation office.

You may register by mail or in person, with payment in full, for the first month of the program. All payments are due in full, one month prior to attendance. We accept Visa, MasterCard, cash, money orders or checks payable to 'Town of Vernon'. Registration is due no later than the 4:30 on the Thursday prior to the week you want your child to start. Space is available at all R.E.K. sites: Lake St, Skinner Rd (which also includes Maple St), Northeast and Center Rd School.

DANCE PROGRAM



Dance classes are held continuously in 4 wk sessions. Participants may join at any time. Each week progresses for a performance June 6. All classes are held at Center 375. Instructor Jessica and other Beyond Dance staff will be teaching the classes. Dance Class Fee Structure Per Participant: \$35 for 1 session of 1 class style, \$30

for each additional class style during the same session (discount not applicable to on-line registrants). \$10 Drop in for 1 time classes during session. (No sibling discounts).

MONDAYS:

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

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

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

THURSDAYS:

Preschool Combo (ages 2-4) 9:30-10:15am

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

Jazz (ages 12+) 5:15-6pm

Tap (ages 10+) 6-6:45pm

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

Lyrical Teen (ages 12+) 7:45-8:45pm

SATURDAYS:

Preschool Combo (ages 3-4) 10-10:45am

Hip Hop/Tumble (ages 5-7) 10:45-11:30am

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.

Tuesday

Session 1: April 21-May 12

Session 2: May 19-June 9

7-8pm

Vernon Teen Center Fitness Room

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

ZUMBA FITNESS

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: 6:45-7:45pm; Center 375 Gym

Thursdays: 10:15-11:15am; Center 375 Dance Room

Fee: Drop In rate: \$6.00/class

BELLY DANCING

Students are taught the fundamental core movements which helps build a strong foundation for belly dancing. We'll have a great time stretching and learning proper posture, breathing techniques, core hip and abdominal movements. The fundamentals shimmies, traveling steps and basic undulations are taught all in an easy-to-follow format that will allow participants to build a

strong foundation in the beautiful art of Belly Dancing. Introduction is also given to the different tools of belly dancing which includes-veils, finger cymbals, cane. Various cultures, rhythms and different styles of belly dancing are briefly discussed. Bring water.

Thursdays
April 30-June 4
6:30-7:30pm
Fee: \$65

FIT MIX

Fit Mix 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
7-8pm
Center 375 Gym
Drop in rate: \$6.00/class

ADULT HIP HOP

Do you get excited whenever the music is playing and you feel like dancing? Is that passion burning inside you? Learn how to dance hip hop – step by step lessons, guided by a Beyond Dance instructor. New and original combinations from beginners level through experienced.

Thursdays
6:45-7:45pm
Center 375 Dance Room
Drop in rate: \$6.00/class

PILOXING

PILOXING® cardio fusion incorporates cutting edge research and fitness techniques to burn maximum calories, build lean muscles, and increase stamina. The program uniquely blends the power, speed, and agility of boxing with the targeted sculpting and flexibility of pilates. These techniques are also supplemented by the use of weighted gloves, further toning the arms and maximizing cardiovascular health. Add to that exhilarating dance moves and you have a muscle-toning, fat-burning workout that will make you feel physically and mentally empowered!

Saturdays
9-10am
Center 375 Dance Room
Drop In rate: \$6.00/class

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. All new gardeners - registration started on March 9.

Family Events & Bus Trips

EASTER EGG HUNT



The Vernon Parks & Recreation Dept, sponsored by Dunkin' Donut, will hold annual Easter Egg Hunt on Friday, April 3 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, April 3 (rain date Saturday, April 4)
Henry Park
Age 2: 9:45a.m. on the Softball Field
Age 3-4: 10:15am on the McCoy

Baseball Field
Age 5-6: 9:30am on the Softball Field
Age 7-8: 10:00am on the McCoy
Baseball Field

EARTH DAY

Come and help keep Vernon beautiful! The Vernon Parks and Recreation Department welcome families, friends and organizations to help take part in projects to help beautify the town. Interested groups may call the Parks and Recreation Department at 860-870-3520 for more information.

MOTHER'S DAY DASH



The Vernon Parks & Recreation Dept will be sponsoring the 42nd Annual 5K Mother's Day Dash on Sunday May 10th. The start and finish will take place in Henry Park (120 South St; Vernon, CT). 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.

50TH ANNUAL FISHING DERBY

Sponsored by: JT's Flyshop; Union, CT
The first 100 participants to register will receive a 50 year anniversary patch.
Saturday, May 2, 2015 8-11am (Rain date: May 3rd).

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Parks & Recreation ... continued from page 15

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.



Summer Programs

DANCE CAMP

This camp for children ages 7-12 yrs old is surely going to keep you busy and having fun. Dance like a star in this fun-filled, high energy camp with staff from Beyond Dance. The participants will enjoy dancing numerous styles to modern music, do Zumba, create cool crafts, sing and more! In the afternoon, participants will go to Valley Falls to swim.

The last day of each session will include a Show for family and friends to see. Wear appropriate clothes and shoes to comfortably move around and dance in, bring a bathing suit, towel, lunch (no refrigerator available), snacks and plenty of water.

Valley Falls Barn-lower level

August 3-7

8:30am-3:00pm

Residents \$100/session

Non-Residents \$110/session

Play Well Pre-Engineering Camp

This camp is open to children ages 5-6 years old. Create, Play, and Learn. Build a town, city, or star base with houses, buildings, pyramids, bridges, tunnels, towers, and more. Build motorized cars, trains, buses, and trucks; race them; crash them; repair them. Explore the many possibilities of LEGO® building systems while learning useful construction techniques.

Monday through Friday

August 17-21

9a.m. to 12p.m.

Camp Newhoca

Residents: \$135 / Non-Residents: \$140

Play Well FUNDamentals

This exciting program is for children ages 7-9 years old. Design and build motorized machines, catapults, pyramids, demolition derby cars, truss and suspension bridges, buildings, and other constructions. Explore concepts in physics, mechanical engineering, structural engineering, and architecture while playing with your favorite creations.

This is a hands-on and minds-on class suitable for LEGO® building system novices to “maniacs.”

Monday through Friday

August 17-21

1-4 p.m.

Camp Newhoca

Residents: \$135 / Non-Residents: \$140

SUMMER DAY CAMP

Registration began February 23

SESSIONS (Newhoca, 375, Valley Falls,

Henry Park, Kiddie Camp)

Session 1: June 22-June 26

Session 2: June 29-July 3

Session 3: July 6-July 10

Session 4: July 13-July 17

Session 5: July 20-July 24

Session 6: July 27-July 31

Session 7: August 3-August 7

Session 8: August 10-August 14

POST CAMP: August 17-21

FEES: *Center 375 and Valley Falls Camp:*

Residents: \$80 / Non-Residents: \$85

Henry Park Camp:

Residents: \$65 / Non-Residents: \$70



Camp Newhoca:Residents:

\$95 / Non-Residents: \$100

Kiddie Camp:

Residents: \$80 / Non-Residents: \$85

Extended A.M.:

Residents: \$20/ Non-Residents: \$25

Extended P.M.:

Residents: \$30 / Non-Residents: \$35

Post Camp:

Residents: \$110 / Non-Residents: \$115

Late Fee: Late fees apply to those who are not picked up on-time. Fee is \$5 for the first 15 minutes, \$1 per minute there after. *NOTE: Campers MUST go to the camp that fits their age group. Age is calculated by the age you are by August 31, 2015.

KIDDIE CAMP

Kiddie Camp is held at Center 375 from 9:00am to 3:30pm and is for children ages 4-5 years old. Campers meet in the Fitness Room of Center 375 each day. This location also features playing fields, playground and a kiddie pool only. Children do activities that focus on interaction with peers, have theme weeks, physical fitness, educational learning activities, arts and crafts, story time, movies and much more. Limit is 30 campers. Campers must be fully potty trained. Campers attending this camp ARE eligible to register for the Center 375 Extended Day program. No Bus transportation is provided. Photo ID is required to sign out your child.

CENTER 375 CAMP

This camp is held at the Center 375 from 9:00am to 3:30pm and is for children ages 6-12 years old. This location features a swimming pool, softball field for games, basketball court, playground, picnic area and an air conditioned indoor facility.

Campers enjoy fun theme days, physical fitness, arts and crafts, open swim and much more! Limit is 70 campers. Campers attending this camp ARE eligible to register for the Center 375 Extended Day program. No Bus transportation is provided. Photo ID is required to sign out your child.

VALLEY FALLS NATURE CAMP

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

HENRY PARK CAMP

This camp is held at Henry Park from 8:30am to 4:00pm and is for children ages 6-15 years old. All Campers meet at the Pavilion in the morning and are picked up there in the afternoon. This location features a swimming pool, multiple baseball fields for games, basketball courts and a playground with a spray pool. A Free lunch program is offered at this site. In the event of inclement weather, campers will be bussed to one of the town's elementary schools. Limit is 70 campers. Campers are NOT eligible for the extended day program. No Bus transportation is provided. Please note this camp has longer camp hours. Photo ID is required to sign out your child.

CAMP NEWHOCA

This camp is located at Newhoca Park which is on Middle Bolton Lake and goes from 9:00am to 3:30pm. It is for campers ages 6-13 years old. This camp features swimming in the lake, canoes & paddle boats, basketball courts, hiking, field games, an arts & crafts instructor, exciting theme days and much more! This camp also has indoor facilities featuring an Arts and Crafts cabin, Game Room (with Foosball tables, Air Hockey, board games, etc), Rec Hall and an office. During sessions 3, 5 and 7, campers ages 10-13 are eligible to sign up for a sleepover at Camp Newhoca. Camp Newhoca is known for their exciting themes. A Nature Program is part of the camp too. Camp Newhoca will definitely provide fun times, good friends and happy memories! Limit 110 campers. Photo ID is required to sign out your child.

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

EXTENDED DAY

This is an extension to the summer camp day that allows you to drop off your child as early as 7:30am and stay as late as 6:00pm in the evening. Campers needing Extended Day for Camp Newhoca



and Valley Falls will be located at Valley Falls Park (in the event of inclement weather it is held at the Valley Falls Barn). Camp Newhoca campers will be bussed to Newhoca Park. Campers needing Extended Day for Center 375 and Kiddie Camp will be located at Center 375. Please note, this program is NOT available for Henry Park campers as transportation is NOT provided to site. Photo ID is required to sign out your child.

POST CAMP

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



FACILITY RENTALS

Pool parties

Make a big splash at your next party. Community Pool and Horowitz Pool is now available for pool parties. Pool parties are available on Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 am to Noon or 6:00 pm through 8:00pm. The cost of the pool party is \$200.00. For further information, please call 860-870-3520.

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Parks & Recreation ... continued from page 17

NEWHOCA LODGE RENTAL

Newhoca lodge is set on a gorgeous camp ground on Middle Bolton Lake. This is the perfect spot to hold a family reunion, baby shower, birthday party and much more. The fee to rent the lodge is \$50 an hour for a resident and \$60 an hour for non-residents.

Picnic/Pavillion Rentals

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 one pavilion. Fees vary by picnic areas and length of rental time.

HENRY PARK

Located at 120 South Street, Henry Park has two picnic grove areas and three picnic sites. There is a \$20 charge for residents and \$25 charge for non-residents for the use of these groves. Additional fees may apply for parties of 35 guests or more.

NEW PAVILION

The Russell G. Hartmann Pavilion is located at Henry Park, 120 South Street. The pavilion is 40 feet by 60 feet. This is the perfect spot to hold a family reunion, baby shower, birthday party and much more. The fee to rent the pavilion is \$35 per hour for a resident and \$40 per hour for non-residents. For more details, call 860-870-3520.

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. Located on Grier Road, Newhoca Park has a small hexagon pavilion measuring 20 feet that is great for all occasions.

OTHER PICNIC AREAS

Fox Hill Tower-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

SEND A KID TO CAMP

The Vernon Parks and Recreation Department is looking for sponsorships to send a child to camp this upcoming summer. A \$75 sponsorship can send a child to camp for a full week. Either donate on your own or get a group of people to pitch in and help 1 child. Our goal is to give 100 children the opportunity to go to camp this summer that may not usually be able to attend.

SAVE A LIFE

The Vernon Parks and Recreation Department is kicking off our "Save A Life" campaign. Nationally, drowning remains the second-leading cause of accidental death among children, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. An estimated 300 children under the age of five drown in swimming pools and spas every year, and more than 4,200 kids 15 and younger visit hospital emergency rooms because of non-fatal submersion injuries, including those that result in permanent brain damage. The Town of Vernon is acting upon this upsetting statistic and has created the "Save A Life" Program, which is intended to send children to swim lessons for free. A \$45 donation can send a child through 8 classes of swim lessons. Become a hero and SAVE A LIFE today.

FIREWORKS SPONSORSHIP

The annual fireworks will be held on Wednesday, July 1, 2015 (Rain date: July 2, 2015). The Parks and Recreation Department is accepting donations from individuals and businesses for this event. For details, contact the office at 860-870-3520.

Sponsorship Opportunities

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



Vernon Police Department

Welcome Thor!



The Vernon Police Department welcomed K9 Thor into the department in July 2014. Thor was partnered with Bryan Sembersky, a six year veteran of the department. Thor is a 16 month old, 80 pound, male German Sheppard and Belgian Malinois mix. Thor was born and received training in Slovakia. Officer Sembersky and Thor began training as a team on September 8, 2014 at Castle's K-9 Academy in Mechanicsburg Pennsylvania. Officer Sembersky and Thor completed an intense 4 week course and received a certification from the North American Police Work Dog Association at the conclusion. On December 14, 2014 Officer Sembersky and Thor were also certified by the Connecticut Police Work Dog Association. Thor is certified in

patrol work which includes tracking human scent, area searching, building searching, evidence/article recovery, obedience, criminal apprehension and handler protection. Thor is also trained and certified to detect drugs, including marijuana, cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine. Officer Sembersky and Thor train on a regular basis. They receive a minimum of 16 hours of dedicated K9 training a month.

Officer Sembersky and Thor are assigned to the patrol division on the evening shift. They are responsible for covering a patrol district and providing K9 assistance throughout town. They are also on call to assist neighboring communities. Officer Sembersky and Thor have completed 55 K9 deployments since joining the force. The most notable deployment occurred on 10/28/14. At 2338 hrs. a pizza delivery girl reported she was robbed at gun-point by two males. Officer Sembersky and Thor responded and attempted to track the suspects. Thor tracked then to the front door of 21 Woodland St. The two suspects were later located hiding within 21 Woodland St. and arrested. When Thor is not working he resides with Officer Sembersky and his family.

TRUE OR FALSE

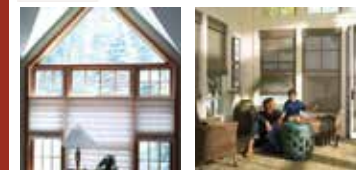
"There is an ordinance in Vernon that requires homeowners, leaser or renters to clear sidewalks on their property within 8 hours of the completion of a snow storm."
This is TRUE and if you fail to do so it can result in a \$50 fine.

If it sounds too good to be true...

With the downturn in the economy and with many of our fellow citizens out of work, the police department has seen a rise in victims of internet fraud. People, out of work, desperate for an opportunity to turn things around, fall victim to internet predators looking for the easy victim. These victims or "marks" in con man parlance simply answer a random email which promises work from home, become a mystery shopper or many of other attractive employment opportunities. The "marks" reply to the sender is met with promises of high income, easy work hours or other attractive benefits which lure the "mark" into the scheme. Once involved the financial danger rises dramatically! Some of the schemes ask for banking information so the financial windfall can be deposited in their accounts, others depend on the "mark" cashing business checks sent to them and then forwarding monies to other "partners".

Either way you have just become a victim of financial fraud.

The schemes take on many appearances but work in a very similar fashion. Funds in the form of a business or bank cashiers check are sent to the "mark" with instructions to deposit the funds into the "marks" account. The funds are then to be drawn down to an amount less than the total deposit and forwarded to a partner usually out of the country using Western Union money orders. Several days later, the "mark" is informed that the check is a forgery and the "mark" is out the legitimate funds withdrawn from their account. Banks will not reimburse the victims for the withdrawn funds, nor is it possible for police to track the transaction once withdrawn at Western Union. How can you protect yourself? Always remember, if it's too good to be true, it isn't!



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