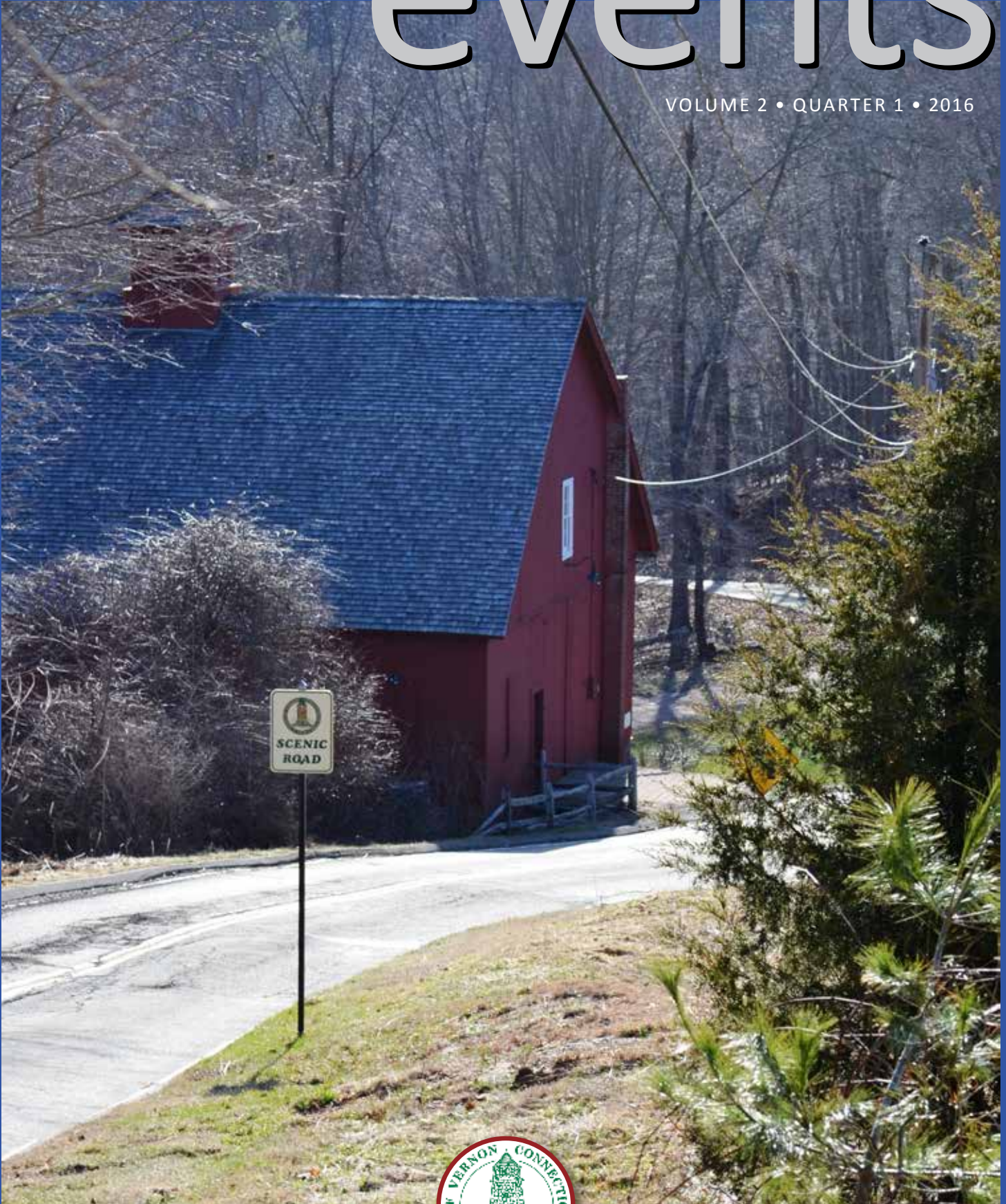


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# The Mayor's Corner

Here at Town Hall, budget preparations are underway for the Fiscal Year 2016-2017. By the time you receive this magazine the Board of Education will have delivered their budget and we will be well on our way to finalizing the Mayor's Budget. Once completed, it will be presented to the Town Council on March 15, 2016. Public Hearings and Budget Meetings are planned for March 19, 22, 24, 26, 28, 29 and 31st. All of the weekday meetings will begin promptly at 7:30 pm and the two Saturday meetings will begin at 9:00 am. All of the budget sessions are held in the Town Council Chambers, Third Floor, Town Hall, 14 Park Place, Vernon. Our priorities, as always, are to assure the financial health of the Town and to protect the interests of our citizens, while closely monitoring the mil rate and its overall impact. Please join the discussions.

Our budget challenge this year will be to withstand the Governor's changes to municipal funding, while continuing to provide quality services. We hear, via the

media, that there is a large deficit at the state level. This deficit will most likely stop on the doorstep of the municipalities to help balance. If this is the case, we will have to make some difficult choices as we work our way through our local budget process.

Locally, funding is in place for the third year of our road projects. Thanks to the forward thinking residents of Vernon, three years ago bond funding to repair and pave our streets was secured. This funding will not be impacted by the Governor's actions. Periodically, you may receive mail or read releases in the newspapers about upcoming detours as a result of these road projects. Please be patient while we upgrade and repair many of our main roads and pedestrian areas.

The good news is, spring and summer are fast approaching. Be sure to check out all the programs and activities sponsored by our Parks and Recreation Department and others. Summer jobs can be applied for online by using the Town of Vernon

website: [vernon-ct.gov](http://vernon-ct.gov) Employment/HR button. Lifeguards, camp counselors and park maintainers are always needed.



Special thanks to our cover photographer for this edition, Leslie Campolongo. We appreciate your talents and your efforts on our behalf.

One final note, the Annual Town Meeting will take place on April 26th at Rockville High School auditorium. The scheduled start time this year is 8:00 pm instead of the traditional 7:00 pm, to accommodate the Registrars of Voters and the Presidential Primary scheduled for the same day. Please participate in as many of the budget meetings as possible we need your input!

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## SCAM WARNING SIGNS

*From The Town of Vernon, Collector of Revenue*

"If someone calls claiming to be from the Town of Vernon and threatens police arrest or license revocation if you don't pay immediately, that is a sign that it really isn't the Town of Vernon calling."

Here's what you should do: Call the Vernon Police Department at 860.872.9126 IMMEDIATELY! DON'T PAY ANYONE WHO CALLS ASKING FOR MONEY!

THEN: If you know you owe taxes or you think you might owe taxes, call (860) 870-3660 and the clerk at that line can help you with a payment issue.

We want to educate taxpayers so they can be vigilant and help protect themselves against phone or email scams. While the Town of Vernon works hard to help prevent fraud, we believe that fraud prevention is everyone's responsibility. Your best defense is to be aware, educate yourself and use good judgment. We do not and will not ask for payment information over the phone.



# Revaluation 2016

State Law requires a complete revaluation of real estate every five years. The Town of Vernon's next scheduled revaluation is effective for the October 1, 2016 Grand List. Revaluation is the equalization of property values by estimating the current market value of all properties in Town. Vernon's last revaluation was effective for the October 1, 2011 Grand List.

For tax purposes, State Law requires that municipalities assess all property at 70% of its current fair market value. Therefore, the assessed value of your property represents 70% of the fair market value.

For the convenience of our citizens, you may review your assessment data on our website. This site will allow inquiry access to the Assessor's database, including value summary, building data, photo, sales search and general revaluation information.

The Assessor's Office would like to take this opportunity to thank all the citizens of Vernon for their interest and cooperation in this very important project.

## Revaluation Questions and Answers

### • What is a Revaluation?

A Revaluation is the process of conducting the Data Collection and Market Analysis necessary to equalize the values of all properties within a municipality for the purpose of a fair distribution of the tax burden.

### • Why is a Revaluation needed?

Over time, cities and towns of Connecticut have continued to grow. Since an increase in population translates into an increase in the demand for housing and other municipal paid services such as schools, police, fire, waste disposal and snow removal, it is essential that property values be kept current. The State of Connecticut now requires that cities and towns perform a revaluation every five years so that all properties can be brought to current market value and contribute an equitable portion of the total tax burden.

### • What is market value and who determines my property value?

Market value is determined by the activity in the real estate market and the general economy. The value of your property is based on an analysis of the entire market for the full two calendar years before the completion of the Revaluation Project. It is the Assessor's job to research and analyze the values in any particular area or neighborhood. In effect, they do what you would do to determine the selling price when putting your property up for sale. The Assessor has specific guidelines to follow. Factors that are examined for each property are: Location, size, quality of construction, age of improvements, topography, utilities, zoning restrictions, if any, etc.

### • Will a Revaluation increase taxes?

A Revaluation may result in an increase or decrease of individual assessments; it does not mean that all property values will increase. You may be saying "SURE!", but remember, assessments are only the base that is used to determine the tax burden. The tax burden is the amount that the Municipality must raise to operate the local government and support the many services each of us has come to expect such as schools, police, etc. If the same amount of money is to be raised after the Revaluation as the previous year and each assessment doubles, the tax rate would merely be cut in half.

### • How will I know if my assessment is equitable?

There are two very good methods of determining this. First, compare your property to similar properties that sold in the previous year. Your value should be in line with these sale prices. Second, if no recent sales are available, compare your assessment to other similar properties in your area using the Street Listing of Values available in the Assessor's Office. Your value should be in line with these similar properties. Remember, very few properties are exactly alike. Your value should be comparable, but it seldom will be exactly the same as what seems to be a similar property.

continued on page 4



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## REVALUATION ... continued from page 3

### • What is an Informal Hearing?

Towards the end of the Revaluation (November 2016), every homeowner receives a notice of their proposed valuation based on the analysis performed. These values are not final until the hearings are complete. When a homeowner has a question or concern about the proposed valuation, they are asked to call for an appointment and a date and time to meet will be set to discuss the valuation process and answer any questions the homeowner may have. An informal hearing is not a forum to discuss taxes;

it is strictly meant to answer questions on the property valuations.

Homeowners are asked to come prepared with questions and have compared their property to other comparable ones in their neighborhood. The Assessor / Hearing Officer will determine if a review of the property is necessary. All changes to value that occur due to a hearing will be reflected in the change notice that is sent after hearings are complete.

### • If I disagree with my assessment after a hearing, what are my options?

If any property owner believes the assessment on their property is in excess of its fair market value, they should first notify the Assessor's Office. They may then appeal before the Municipality's Board of Assessment Appeals. The Board of Assessment Appeals will review the case and make a determination as to the disposition of the appeal. Should the property owner still feel the assessment is incorrect, they may appeal to the Superior Court for the judicial district in which the Municipality is located within sixty days of the BAA notice date.

**Annual Town Meeting - April 26 - 8:00 pm**  
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# Town Clerk

**Bernice K. Dixon, CMC, MCTC**

## ELECTION NEWS

The Presidential Primaries will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2016. Please be advised that only voters registered as Democrats or Republicans are eligible to vote in their respective primaries. Unaffiliated voters are NOT eligible to vote in the primaries on April 26, 2016 but will be eligible to vote in the Presidential Election on Tuesday, November 8, 2016.

Voting in the Primaries will take place at your designated polling place. Questions can be directed to the Registrars of Voters at 860-896-2376.

**Of special note:** Due to the Primaries, the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. at Rockville High School, after the close of the polls.

## FISHING NEWS

Opening day is April 9th. The 2016 Connecticut Angler's Guide becomes available after March 15th. It will also be available on-line at [www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep) in digital book format or in PDF. You may also purchase your fishing and/or hunting licenses at the same web-site with a credit card. If you are unable to obtain your license on-line, you may obtain it at K-Mart in Vernon or at the Town Clerk's Office with payment in cash.

# Vernon Police Department

The general goal of Vernon Traffic Division is to significantly reduce the number of injury crashes. Moreover, the goal includes reducing the high level of crashes due to Connecticut's four predominant contributing factors: following too closely, failure to grant the right of way, speeding, and violation of traffic controls.

Traffic officers do not drive around aimlessly hoping to come across someone violating the law. Just like other crimes, we will sometimes focus our enforcement around problem areas or intersections that have an unusually high accident rate.

Radar and Laser Enforcement is perhaps one of the most well-known of enforcement techniques. Radar and Laser technology can accurately measure the speed of an on-coming car. Occasionally, we will use a speed sign (a sign that flashes the speed to on-coming cars) to inform drivers of their speed as a warning. We often use the speed sign when we get a complaint about speeders in a specific area to see if the area warrants a speed enforcement program. If there are a lot of speeders, we will implement a radar enforcement program on a street to break a pattern of people speeding on the street.

The Vernon Police Department is part of Metro Traffic Services (MTS). MTS is a regional traffic unit comprised of members of local police departments. The regional team lends support to other towns with accident reconstructionists, manpower and specialized equipment for traffic enforcement and serious motor vehicle accident investigation.

Unfortunately, serious physical injury and fatal crashes are a part of our society. The investigation of these collisions is the responsibility of the sergeant and two officers currently assigned to Accident Reconstruction. When a serious collision occurs, a Vernon Officer along with Metro Traffic Services responds to the scene in an attempt to determine the factors responsible for the crash. Witnesses are interviewed, physical evidence from the roadway is obtained, evidence from the drivers may be obtained, and the entire scene is measured and diagramed using a state-of-the-art GPS system. The reconstructionists in this detail receive extensive training in collision reconstruction and crash analysis to perform their job.

If you have a traffic related question or problem please feel free to contact Officer David Provencher at 860-872-9126.

# Vernon Public Works Community Day

This event, sponsored by the Vernon Public Works Department, will be held on Saturday, May 21st from 9 am to 1 pm at the Public Works Facility at 375 Hartford Turnpike in Vernon. The following activities are scheduled:

1) A mobile shredding unit will be available to give Vernon residents the opportunity to have their confidential documents destroyed on site. A maximum of 3 boxes per vehicle will be shred.

2) Equipment show and stormwater demonstrations - check out vehicles of all shapes and sizes including a 10-wheeler, a fire truck, a plow truck, an ambulance, the automated sideloader that is used to collect refuse and recycling and many more. Town and State personnel will be available to answer questions about their jobs and the public will have a chance to explore and climb aboard the big trucks.

3) Meet Senior Center staff and learn what programs the Senior Center has to offer.

4) Learn about Vernon's new Community Notification System and sign up to receive important alerts by text, e-mail or voice-mail.

A non-perishable food item or cash donation will be collected to benefit the Hockanum Valley Community Council Food Pantry.

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



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# Animal Control

The Town of Vernon Animal Control Department is currently experiencing an increase in rabies cases over previous years. Rabies is a viral disease, and is contagious and fatal in dogs and other animals. It is transmissible through the saliva and it causes acute inflammation of the brain in the affected animal.

Vernon had its first reported case of rabies in August 1992. Since then the disease has spread. Raccoons are the primary carriers of the disease in Connecticut. After the initial outbreak in 1992 this department saw a decrease in the number of sick animals and the number of animals that tested positive for the disease. Then in the

summer-fall of 2005 we again experienced an increase of rabies calls. This department removed 98 raccoons and 57 skunks from within the Town of Vernon that were noticeably sick. In the winter of 2006 we experienced another decline in rabies calls.

From October 2014 to November 2015 this department has removed 29 Raccoons and 28 skunks that were sick. Several of the animals were sent to the State Laboratory and tested positive for rabies. Seven of these animals had contact with a pet dog or cat. If the contacted animal has a current vaccination, the animal must be revaccinated and quarantine in the owners home for 45 days. Should their vaccination

be expired, the quarantine extends to six months and must be done at the owner's expense outside the home.

Rabies is here to stay. There is a state law that requires all dogs and cats to be inoculated against rabies. For those of you that read this article and have pets, I urge you before you do another thing today; check to see if your pet has the rabies shots. Check to see if they're up to date. And if they have expired, then get them redone right away. The rabies shot protects your pet, and it protects your family.

Craig Segar, Animal Control Officer

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# Annual Chicken Run Kicks Off Spring

For the third year, Vernon's outdoor season kicks off with the Strong Family Farm 5k Chicken Run on Sunday, April 10, one of the first town wide family fun events of the spring. Far more than just a road race (although there is that, too), it's a farm event for the whole family as it includes a children's race and animals, too. The farm will also welcome the baby chicks to the farm that are part of the very popular Adopt-A-Chicken program. The race itself has over 200 runners and walkers of all ages for the 5K run or 3 mile walk.

The whole town gets involved with sponsorship by many area businesses, and volunteers pitch in on Saturday, April 9th to clean up the farm for the season.

Strong Family Farm connects us to Vernon's agricultural roots with many other events planned for the coming season: Container Gardening with Cathy T., May 21st, a Civil War day camp June 4th, farm life story times for the young ones, Smart-phone photography with our farm photographer Dan Villeneuve, life in our fields with Jane Seymour of the CT DEEP Belding WMA, and the Adopt A Chicken program are just a few of the fun programs planned this year.

ALSO, DO NOT MISS the grand opening of Strong Family Farm CT GROWN Store, accomplished through the matching Viability Grant with the CT Department of Agriculture!

For more information or to sign up for the race, go to [StrongFarmChickenRun.org](http://StrongFarmChickenRun.org). You can also contact the farm at (860) 874-9020 or email [info@strongfarm.org](mailto:info@strongfarm.org).

Strong Family Farm is located at 274 West Street in Vernon Center. Learn more by going to the website at [StrongFamilyFarm.org](http://StrongFamilyFarm.org) or join Strong Family Farm Facebook page for the latest news.



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Credit: dv-photography.com

## The Vernon Youth Services Bureau

The Vernon Youth Services Bureau is happy to announce that the READY SET SCHOOL FAIR will take place on Saturday, March 12 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Vernon Center Middle School located at 777 Hartford Turnpike. Sponsored by the Vernon School Readiness Council, the READY SET SCHOOL FAIR is held to promote preschool and kindergarten registration as well as to provide an opportunity for families with young children to learn about a variety of local programs and services that promote the healthy development of young children.

Representatives from Vernon Public Schools will be at the fair accepting Kindergarten registrations for 2016-17 school year for Vernon children who turn 5 years of age on or before December 31, 2016.

To register, parents must fill out a registration packet and provide the following documents:

- A Certified, full-size birth certificate. A Photo ID of Parent (Driver's License or Non-Driver photo ID, Valid Passport with photo)
- Proof of residency (Mortgage Deed, Notarized Lease Agreement, Property Tax Bill, Mortgage Note, Current Utility Bill, Water Bill, Updated Voter Registration Card). All documents must have the same home address.

The fair will showcase many local organizations, and will include information about early education and child care programs, parenting /family programs, literacy, nutrition, health and much more!

Members from CT CHIP, Connecticut Child Identification Program, will offer a FREE identification packet for those families who choose to participate. The packet includes a DVD, still photo, fingerprints, dental impression, and dental swab of the child.

The fair is fun for children too! Activities such as music and movement, and storytelling will be held throughout the morning.

The READY SET SCHOOL FAIR is FREE to all families with young children!

To receive fair updates or get more information, check out the Vernon School Readiness Council FACEBOOK page or visit the website at: [www.vernonschoolreadinesscouncil.org](http://www.vernonschoolreadinesscouncil.org)

# Vernon Volunteers' Collaborative Spring Events



Vernon Historical Society program at historic Vernon Grange.  
Photographer: Jon Roe



Vernon Garden Club May plant sale at Sacred Heart Church.  
Photographer: Jon Roe

Spring finds most of our activities still indoors after a winter with few public programs. If you haven't explored the variety of local offerings this is the time to take in a program or the annual book and plant sales.

## Spring Concert

**April 9 (Sat.), 7:30 p.m.**

The Vernon Chorale's Spring Concert at St. Bernard Church.

## Farm Work Day & 5k Chicken Run

**April 9 & 10**

More than a road race these Strong Family Farm events are the season's first outdoor family activities. See separate article.

## Changing Land, Changing Wildlife

**April 18 (Mon.), 7 p.m.**

Vernon Garden Club program by Margery Winters on changes over the last 500 years.

## Meetinghouse Hill

**A Piece of Our Past is Preserved for the Future**

**April 28 (Thu.), 7 p.m.**

Vernon Greenways Volunteers Spring kickoff program. Ann Letendre and Jon Roe connect the early years of Vernon, our agricultural heritage and a future trail. Learn how VGV keeps Vernon beautiful.

## Vernon Historical Society's Annual Book Sale

**Apr. 30, May 1, 7, 8**

This annual event features a wide selection of used books, DVDs, VCR tapes and books on tape.

## Vernon Garden Club's Spring Plant Sale

**May 7, 8 -10:30 a.m.**

Annual sale of member grown plants at Sacred Heart Church.

## Barns Of Vernon

**May 15 (Sun.), 2 p.m.**

Vernon Historical Society program featuring three of Vernon's historical barns. See separate article.

## Invasive Plants

**May 16 (Mon.), 7 p.m.**

Vernon Garden Club May program by Nicole Gabelson. Learn to recognize and treat invasives.

Organizations are still planning 2016 outdoor hikes. To learn about these events visit [VernonVolunteers.org](http://VernonVolunteers.org).

To receive email announcements join our MeetUp group. Find out how on our website.

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# Vernon Senior Center

26 Park Place / 860-870-3680

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Monday and Wednesday until April 13th AARP TAX PREPARATION

AARP Volunteers will be at the Senior Center to prepare income tax returns. You must make an appointment as there will be no walk-ins. Please call between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm to set up your appointment. This is a free service.

### Wednesday, March 16

#### St. Patrick's Day at the Aqua Turf

This trip will be a day full of fun! The bus departs from the Green Circle Commuter lot at 10:00 am, returning approximately at 5:00 pm. There will be a family style luncheon. Music by The McLean Avenue Band playing plenty of traditional Irish music along with some up tempo chart toppers. There will also be Irish Step dancers! The cost is \$75. Please pay when you register for this trip.

### Thursday, March 17 at 10:00 am AARP Life Reimagined Session

An AARP volunteer will guide participants through a program to help them reflect, evaluate priorities and take action in areas such as work, learning, relationships and well being. Join us on March 17th for a chance to chart your path to what's next! This is a free program.

### Wednesday, April 13th Hartford Stage Co.

We will be traveling to the Hartford Stage Co. performance of "Having Our Say The Delany Sisters First 100 Years" This wonderful play is about two sisters that were daughters of a former slave and the story of the last century as they lived it. Trip cost is \$84 per person includes round trip transportation, tickets for the 2:00 pm performance, taxes and gratuities. Payment due at sign up.

### Wednesday, May 11 Kittery Outlets in Maine

Our trip will be to the Kittery Outlets in Maine. This is a day trip to more than 120 famous name outlet stores. Cost is \$60

per person including round trip transportation, Kittery Outlet coupons and map, all taxes and gratuities.

### Thursday May 19th Stroke Awareness

We will have a presentation on Stroke Awareness at 1:00 pm. This program is presented by the Visiting Nurses. Please call to sign up for this informative program.

Each month on the fourth Thursday we provide our Newcomers with a tour and overview of our Senior Center programs and activities. We would love to have any senior age 60 and up join us and learn about our Center. Please call the Center to register for any of these programs. We are open Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. We are available to answer any questions you may have about our Center and our many activities during those times.

*We look forward to meeting you!*

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**[www.LifeForceCT.com](http://www.LifeForceCT.com)**  
**860-649-7705**

27 Hartford Turnpike (next to Connecticut Golf Land)  
Vernon, CT



# VVC Organizations Act to Preserve Heritage Farm

In October the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection awarded a \$650,000 grant to preserve 51 acres of heritage farmland in Vernon, the culmination of a fevered fundraising effort to preserve the property as active farmland before a March deadline.

Vernon Volunteers' Collaborative (VVC) creates a space for Vernon nonprofit volunteer organizations to meet, learn about each other and exchange ideas. One result is joint projects that benefit the town as well as participating organizations. Discussion among members was partially responsible for the formation of Meetinghouse Hill, LLC, which quickly raised \$1 million dollars of loaned funds, coordinated with CT Farmland Trust and submitted grants.

The preserved property comprises two pastures, a 33-acre field and barn on Route 30 and another 18-acre field on West Road. Both parcels were farmed for generations by the Strong Family, although not currently part of the Strong Family Farm nonprofit. The pastures, still in productive use, are the largest remaining parcels of tilled agricultural land in town.

The Route 30 property is also significant because our first meetinghouse, built in 1763, was at the top of this hill.



Painting by Hans Weiss, with permission.

The road to the meetinghouse is still visible - unpaved and much as it was in the Eighteenth Century. Soon the public will again enjoy the spectacular view of the Tankerhoosen Valley.

VVC contributors to this effort include Ann Letendre of Friends of Hockanum River Linear Park, Karl Hasel of Northern CT Land Trust and Jon Roe of Tankerhoosen.info. The Vernon Historical Society's resources were invaluable for gathering the historical story.

There is one more important task. By CT law federal and state grants cannot exceed 90% of the cost of the property so volunteers must raise \$150,000. If the town and its citizens value their agricultural and colonial history the fundraising should go easily.

To learn more about Meetinghouse Hill - its history, pasture plans, and how to donate visit [MeetinghouseHill.org](http://MeetinghouseHill.org).

## Cemetery Clean Up

The Town of Vernon Cemetery Commission is requesting families to please remove all holiday and winter decorations before April 1st. This includes all statues, garden shop figurines, shepherd hook plant holders, etc. Decorations not removed will be discarded. All artificial flowers must be secured in a pot or suitable non-glass container. No candles or LED garden lights are allowed.

Borders must be preapproved by the superintendent.

For a complete listing of the Vernon Cemetery Commission rules and regulations, visit the Town of Vernon website at [vernon-ct.gov/cemetery](http://vernon-ct.gov/cemetery). We appreciate your cooperation as we begin the spring clean up at the cemeteries.

Alan West, Cemetery Director

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# Vernon Parks & Recreation Department

www.VernonRec.org is the NEW Parks and Recreation website & registration site.

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

## OFFICE HOURS (through 4/1)

Monday-Thursday, 8:30 am-4:30 pm

Friday, 8:30am-3:00 pm

## OFFICE HOURS (starting 4/4)

Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-4:30 pm

## LOCATION

120 South Street, Vernon, CT 06066

## STAFF DIRECTORY

General Phone Number: 860-870-3520 Website: www.vernonrec.org

Director: Bruce Dinnie

Park Maintainer: Mark Lucas

Assistant Director: Steve Krajewski

Park Maintainer: Rob Arthur

Administrative Assistant: Kathy Fisher

Park Maintainer: Nick Wheelock

Recreation Supervisor: Amy Watt

Park Maintainer: Nick Campolongo

Recreation Supervisor: Rich Durkee

Park Maintainer: Robyn St Germaine

Park Foreman: Mark Dziejdzinski

Park Maintainer: Colton Garrison

Park Maintainer: Mitch Reid

## FREQUENTLY REQUESTED NUMBERS

Vernon-Rockville Little League	Jason Hahn	860-982-6783
Vernon Youth Baseball Org	Marc Collins	860-256-7200
Girls' Little League Softball	Rob Silver	860-729-6961
Vernon Youth Soccer	Jeff Parizeau	860-573-0969
Vernon Youth Football	www.vernonyouthfootball.com	
Youth Hockey	Jim Larza	860-529-5295
Boys Youth Lacrosse	Bruce Gezelman	860-870-9461
Girls Youth Lacrosse	Jim Peters	860-966-7589
Over 55 Softball	Bob Lathrop	860-614-1421
Vernon Orioles	Steve Krajewski	860-870-3520
Junior Women's Club	Nancy Carter	860-989-3170
Vernon Animal Control		860-870-3558
Indian Valley Y.M.C.A.		860-872-7329

## REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INFORMATION

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

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

**ADA** – The Town of Vernon does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability in provision of programs and services. We are committed to assuring equal access to programs, activities, and services to all individuals.

If you or a family member needs assistance, please let us know when you register.

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

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

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

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## PARKS & RECREATION ... continued from page 13

### INCLEMENT WEATHER

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

### SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

It is our policy that residents of Vernon who cannot afford to participate in programs or activities can make confidential inquiries for assistance to Bruce Dinnie, Director of Parks and Recreation (860-870-3520).

### PROGRAM PHOTOS

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

### PRESCHOOL & YOUTH PROGRAMS

#### Move "n" Groove

This parent/child class will be sure to get your child up and dancing to the beat, moving to the music and having fun! Ms Jess with Beyond Dance will be instructing the class. This program is for children ages 18-36 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 and participants are welcome to start at any point.

Thursdays / 10:30-11:45 am

Vernon Teen Center Fitness Room

Fee: \$35.00 for 4 weeks or \$10 drop in

#### Preschool Fitness

Get your little ones on their feet and ready

to have some fun! This program is a 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 4-week program.

Fridays

Session 1: April 22-May 13

Session 2: May 20-June 10

9:30-10:15 am

Vernon Teen Center Fitness Room

Fee: Residents \$30.00

Non-Residents \$35.00

#### 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. Please note that if a class needs to be made up due to weather, it might be held on a different day of the week.

Thursdays / April 21- June 9

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

Ages 5-6: 6:20-7:05 pm

Rockville High School Track

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

#### Ninja Karate

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

Wednesdays / March 30-April 27

4:30-5 pm

Hidden Dragon Dojo, 458 Talcottville

Road (Rt 83)

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

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

Rockville High School Track

Fee: Residents \$50.00

Non-Residents \$55.00

#### Cheerleading

The Vernon Parks and Recreation will be offering a youth cheerleading program starting late March at the Vernon Center Middle School. There will be different age groups, times and dates will be announced through a flyer throughout the schools. Participants will learn instruction, fundamentals and tumbling. The program is for Vernon residents only.

#### Pee Wee Baseball

An instructional, coed program for children ages 3-5, that teaches the fundamentals of baseball to young players using a variety of fun drills, games and activities designed to develop skills and a love for the game. The program meets for 4 weeks. Class size is limited!

Date/time TBD

\$35 Residents / \$45 Non-Residents

#### Junior league baseball clinic

An instructional, coed program for children ages 9-12, that teaches the fundamentals of baseball to young players. Each session focuses on a different discipline; Pitchers & Catchers, Outfield, Infield and Hitting & Base running. This program uses 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.

Date/Time TBD

\$35 Residents / \$45 Non-Residents

## DANCE PROGRAM

Dance classes will be held continuously in 4 week sessions. All classes are held at Center 375. Instructor Jessica from Beyond Dance will be teaching a variety of different classes. For more detailed class descriptions please visit the Parks & Recreation Dept website at [www.vernonrec.org](http://www.vernonrec.org)

### Spring Dance info:

The spring recital is on Saturday, June 4, with a dress rehearsal on Friday, June 3. To guarantee being able to perform in the spring recital, dancers must have been partaking in the class since March. Participants are welcome to join in April & May, however, recital participation is not guaranteed. Additional fees do apply for recital costumes. Participation in the recital is not required as long as the instructor is fully aware to plan the dance accordingly.

### SCHEDULE:

#### Monday Classes:

Preschool Combo (ages 3-4)	4:45-5:30 pm
Beginner Tap (ages 8+)	5:30-6:15 pm
Ballet/Jazz (ages 5-7)	5:30-6:15 pm
Pom Dance/Jazz (ages 8-12)	6:15-7pm

#### Tuesday Classes:

Pom Dance/Jazz (ages 13+)	4:15-5 pm
Tap (ages 12+)	5-5:45 pm
Tap/Jazz (ages 7-9)	5-5:45 pm
Lyrical/Ballet Teen (ages 13+)	5:45-6:45 pm
Hip Hop Teen (ages 13+)	6:45-7:30 pm

#### Wednesday Classes:

Tap/Jazz (ages 5-7)	4:30-5:15 pm
*Tap/Jazz must be pre-approved to register for	
Lyrical/Ballet (ages 8-12)	5:15-6 pm
Hip Hop (ages 8-12)	6-6:45 pm

#### Thursday Classes:

Move n Grove (ages 18-36 months)	10:30-11:15 am
*parent participation required*	
Preschool Combo (ages 3-4)	1-1:45 pm

#### Saturday Classes:

Preschool Combo (ages 3-4)	10-10:45 am
Tap/Hip Hop/Tumble (ages 6+)	10:45-11:30 am
Tap/Creative Movement/Tumbling (ages 4-6)	11:30 am-12:15 pm

Dance Class Fee Structure: \$35 for 1 class,  
\$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 guardians signature before any activities can be attended. Cost is \$10.

## ADULT PROGRAMS

### Adult Softball

Teams that participated last year in the Men's, Co-ed and Women's softball leagues need to contact the Parks and Recreation office with their intentions. Entrance fee is \$825, once the fee is received your team is registered, space is limited. The deadline was March 4th. NEW TEAMS will be accepted on a first come first serve basis. The organizational meeting for the men's leagues was Wednesday March 9th at 6:30 at the Teen Center, 375 Hartford Tnpk. The Coed meeting will be Tuesday March 15 at 7:00 and the Women's meeting will be at 7:30 at the Teen Center. The season starts the week of April 18th.

### 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.

### ZUMBA®

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

Mondays 7-8 pm

Center 375 Gym

Thursdays 9:30-10:30 am

Vernon Teen Center Dance Room

Drop In rate: \$6.00/class

### CIZE

The hottest new workout is here and it is for everyone! It's so much fun, you won't even realize you are exercising! In each routine you will learn moves step-by-step and builds them into a full dance routine. Your cardio will skyrocket if you actually

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## **PARKS & RECREATION ... continued from page 15**

really work it out and push yourself. With dancing you can move at the pace you are comfortable with. So if you go for it, you'll lose weight and get toned. While you are mastering the dance moves, you'll also be burning fat and calories.

Tuesdays 7:30-8:30 pm

Vernon Teen Center Dance Room

Drop In rate: \$6.00/class

### **ZUMBA® TONING**

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

Wednesdays 7:15-8:15 pm

Center 375 Gym

Drop in rate: \$6.00/class

### **BLAST**

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

Wednesdays 6:45-7:30 pm

Vernon Teen Center Dance Room

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

### **Hip Hop Fuzion**

Learn to dance and work out with a fusion of hip hop styling; lose weight while learning moves you can take to any dance floor. This energetic work out builds stamina, agility, rhythm and coordination as participants are exposed to dancing and fitness training.

Saturdays 9-10 am

Center 375 Fitness Room

Per Session rate: Drop in rate: \$6.00/class

## **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 9:00 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.

## **FAMILY EVENTS & BUS TRIPS**

### **71st Easter Egg Hunt**

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

Friday, March 25 (rain date Saturday, March 26)

Henry Park

Times: Age 2: 9:45 am on the Softball Field

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

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

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

## **DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Ecker Hill Disc Golf Course will host its first Spring Tournament held April 16th. Event is organized with Green Light Disc Golf. For times and registration information please visit our website.

## **STATUE OF LIBERTY BUS TRIP**

Experience the beauty and splendor of New York City aboard the Statue of Liberty ferry. Tour the grounds of Liberty Island and take the perfect photo of Lady Liberty. You will also have time to visit Ellis Island, the symbol of American immigration. Tour the Ellis Island Immigration Museum and research your family history. View genealogy records of your ancestry. Bus trip will include transportation from Vernon to Battery Park and ferry ticket to the Liberty Island and Ellis Island. Bus will depart from the Vernon Teen Center, 375 Hartford Tpke at 8:00 am. Bus will leave Battery Park at 6 pm.

Sunday, May 29

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

## **Annual Fishing Derby**

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 stocked 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.

Up to 15 years old

Saturday, April 30

Valley Falls Pond

Registration opens 7:30 am, Cast your lines at 8:00 am.

Free Residents / \$3 Non-Residents

## **Mother's Day Dash**

43rd Annual 5K Mother's Day Dash on Sunday May 8th. The start and finish will take place in Henry Park (120 South St; Vernon, CT 06066). There are 17 different age divisions and a special mother-daughter, mother-son division. The top three in each

division will receive prizes. There will be a free raffle for all runners that stay for the awards ceremony. Plenty of water, bagels and fruit available to all runners.

Free T-shirts for every runner that pre-registers by April 17th.

Race proceeds will benefit the Vernon Teen Center, the Police Explorers and the Robert J. Bonadies Scholarship Fund at Rockville High School.

Sunday; May 8 / Henry Park

Registration forms can be found online at [www.vernonrec.org](http://www.vernonrec.org).

### **Earth Day**

Come and help keep Vernon beautiful!

The Vernon Parks and Recreation Department welcomes 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.

Projects would take place late April.

### **Trails Day**

Join us for the dedication of the Route 84 underpass mural. The mural is 2,500 square feet and was a joint project between Vernon Greenway Volunteers and local artists. Additional activities TBA, visit our website for the most up to date information. Entrance located on Hartford Turnpike between Pedal Power & Sacred Heart Church. Saturday June 4.

## **AQUATICS**

### **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 to 8:00 pm. The cost of the pool party is \$200. For further information, please call 860-870-3520.

### **Swimming Lessons**

Swimming lessons are provided at Community Pool and Horowitz Pool throughout the summer. Classes are open to children 18 months through 14 years old.

Classes meet in the morning or late evening. Class schedule will be available early April on the Parks and Recreation website.

### **Gators Swim Team**

Join the Gators Swim Team! Make new friends and improve your technique while having fun under the sun. All swimmers must be able to perform one or more strokes and have the endurance to swim a full practice. The team season runs from late June through early August. Practices will be weekday evenings Monday-Thursday with a weekly competition in the Central CT Swim League. All team members will receive an individual Vernon Aquatics pool pass for the 2016 season, a Gators swim cap & T-shirt!

Non-residents: Please note that league policy states that you can only join another town's team if your town does not offer a team already in the league OR if a town has reached its participation limit. As neighboring towns without a team in the CCSL; Ellington, Bolton & Tolland residents ARE eligible to participate on the Gators immediately.

Fee: \$120

## **2015-2016 AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**

The Vernon Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to offer several different childcare programs to meet the needs of Vernon families. Our goal is to make our high-quality programs convenient and affordable while providing your child with a safe, well-rounded, and fun experience. To register for any of our childcare programs please return a completed registration form, along with the first full month's payment, to the Parks & Recreation office via mail or in person. Registration forms can be found at our office or online at [www.vernonrec.org](http://www.vernonrec.org).

### **R.E.K.**

#### **Recreation and Education for Kids**

Our long-running R.E.K. program offers after school care for children in grades K-5 at Center Road School, Skinner Road School, Maple Street School, and Northeast School. We offer a variety of activities to meet the recreational and

educational needs of your children, with a focus on building positive relationships with peers and staff members. R.E.K. will run from the end of the school day until 6:00 p.m. and is held every day that school is held, including scheduled half days and early dismissal days.

### **Daily Activities**

**Homework/Quiet Activities** - Children may use this time to work on homework, read, or engage in other activities such as puzzles and quiet games. Books are available at each site but your child is encouraged to bring a favorite book from home to read if they would like. Staff will be available for homework assistance as needed.

**Recreation** - Children will have plenty of time for active recreation each day. Outdoor time on the school's playscape and athletic fields will be offered whenever weather permits, and in the case of inclement weather the school gym will be used. Recreation time will include a combination of structured games, team sports, and free play to allow your child to get moving and have fun!

**Arts & Crafts** - A variety of arts & crafts activities will be offered to allow the children to explore their creativity, both through structured projects and free creative time.

**Snack** - A healthy snack will be provided each day, with special consideration given for allergies or food restrictions.

**Enrichment Activities** - We are proud to partner with community organizations to periodically bring a variety of additional enrichment activities to our R.E.K. programs. Fees & Payments: The fee for the 2015-16 school year is \$13.50 per regular day, and \$19.50 per early dismissal day. The first month's payment is due in full at the time of registration.

Further payments are due on the 15th of each month and may be made online, by mail, and at your site or the Parks & Recreation office.

Late payments will incur a fee of \$8.00 per month.

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## PARKS & RECREATION ... continued from page 17

To see if you may qualify for financial assistance contact Care 4 Kids at 1-888-214-KIDS or [www.ctcare4kids.com](http://www.ctcare4kids.com).

### VACATION CAMPS

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

#### 2015-2016 Vacation Camp Dates

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

Columbus Day: 10/12

Presidents' Day: 2/15-2/16

Election Day: 11/3

Professional Dev. 3/28

Winter Break: 12/28 – 12/31

April Vacation: 4/11 – 4/15

MLK Day: 1/18

Activities may include:

**Outdoor time** - Organized games & sports, as well as free play time will be offered to get the children moving and having fun.

**Arts & Crafts** - A variety of arts & crafts activities will be offered for children to explore their creativity, both through structured projects and free creative time.

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

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

#### Fees & Payments

The fee for vacation camp is \$30 per day for Vernon residents and \$35 per day for non-residents. Payment is due in full at the time of registration. Registration forms can be found at the Parks & Recreation office, and are also sent out through your child's school prior to

vacations. You may also register online at [www.vernonrec.org](http://www.vernonrec.org) (please note if you register online you will also be asked to complete a hard copy registration form with emergency contacts and pertinent medical information when you drop your child off at camp).

### SUMMER PROGRAMS

#### DANCE CAMP

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

Newhoca Lodge

Session 1: July 11-15

Session 2: July 25-29

Campers will be bussed from Valley Falls Park.

Bus Pick up is 8:45 am

Bus Drop off is 3:45 pm

Fee: \$120/session

#### PLAY WELL PRE-ENGINEERING CAMP

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

Monday through Friday  
August 15-19 / 9 am to 12 pm  
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 15-19 / 1-4 pm

Camp Newhoca

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

#### SUMMER DAY CAMP

\*Registration began February 22\*

Registration received BEFORE May 20, participants must pay for half of the cost of the camp to reserve their spot, the remainder of the balance is due by June 10 or your spots will be relinquished. Payment plans will ONLY be arranged before May 20. There will be NO payment plans after May 20. After May 20 participants must pay for the entire cost of camp to reserve their spot.

All Registrations are due by 12 pm on the Friday before a session begins, IF space is available.

To see if you are eligible for Financial Assistance, you may call the Vernon Social Services Department at 860-870-3661 to schedule an appointment.

No refunds or transfers are made once a camp session has started. There is a \$5.00 charge for any cancellations or transfers you make between programs (note that each camp session is a different program).

#### SESSIONS

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

Session 1: June 20-June 24

Session 2: June 27-July 1

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

Session 4: July 11-July 15

Session 5: July 18-July 22  
 Session 6: July 25-July 29  
 Session 7: August 1-August 5  
 Session 8: August 8-August 12

POST CAMP: August 15-19

FEES:

Center 375 and

Valley Falls Camp: Residents: \$80 / Non-Residents: \$85

Henry Park Camp: Residents: \$65 / Non-Residents: \$70

Camp Newhoca: Residents: \$95 / Non-Residents: \$100

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

Extended 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.

### KIDDIE CAMP

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

### CENTER 375 CAMP

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

### VALLEY FALLS NATURE CAMP

This camp is held at Valley Falls Park from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm and is for children ages 6-12 years old. Campers meet at the Valley Falls Pavilion in the morning and are picked up there in the afternoon. In the event of inclement weather, campers are to go to the Valley Falls Barn. This camp features Nature with special explorations in the pond, learning about fishing, excursions on hiking trails, special guest presenters and much more! Along with fun nature explorations, campers will also enjoy fun camp games, arts & crafts, swim time, basketball court and much more! Limit is 40.

continued on page 20

## 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

## PARKS & RECREATION ... continued from page 19

Campers attending this camp ARE eligible to register for the Valley Falls Extended Day program. No Bus transportation is provided. Photo ID is required to sign out your child.

### HENRY PARK CAMP

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

### CAMP NEWHOCA

This camp is located at Newhoca Park which is on Middle Bolton Lake and goes from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. It is for campers ages 6-13 years old. This camp features swimming in the lake, canoes & paddle boats, basketball courts, hiking, field games, an arts & crafts instructor, exciting theme days and much more! This camp also has indoor facilities featuring an Arts and Crafts cabin, Game Room (with Foosball tables, Air Hockey, board games, etc), Rec Hall and an office. During sessions 3, 5 and 7, campers ages 10-13 are eligible to sign up for a sleepover at Camp Newhoca. Camp Newhoca is known for their exciting themes. A Nature Program is part of the camp too. Camp Newhoca will definitely provide fun times, good friends and happy memories! Limit 110 campers. Photo ID is required to sign out your child. Bus Transportation is ONLY provided from Valley Falls: Drop-Off 8:45 am. Pick Up 3:45 pm.

### EXTENDED DAY

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

### POST CAMP

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

### PICNIC/PAVILLION/Lodge RENTALS

Many of the Town's picnic groves are available for rent. Reserve yours today. Picnic groves are located at the following locations: **Valley Falls Park:** Located on Valley Falls Road, Valley Falls Park contains picnic areas out in the field and a pavilion. Fees vary by picnic areas and length of rental time.

**Henry Park:** Located at 120 South Street, Henry Park has two picnic grove areas and three picnic sites. There is a \$20 charge for residents and a \$25 charge for non residents for the use of these groves. Additional fees may apply for parties of 35 guests or more. The Tower is a picturesque wedding spot and can be rented for \$50. Also located in Henry Park is the **Russell G. Hartmann Pavilion.** The pavilion is 40 feet by 60 feet. This is the perfect spot to hold a family reunion, baby shower, birthday party and much more. The fee to rent the pavilion is \$35 per hour for a resident and \$40 per hour for non-residents. Hold your wedding or photo-shoot at the picturesque Tower at Henry Park. A flat rate of \$50 covers a reservation for your event.

**Newhoca Park:** Located on Grier Road, Newhoca Park has a large Pavilion (40'x60') that is great for all occasions. There is a \$35 per hour charge for residents and \$40 per hour charge for non-residents. Also at Newhoca is a terrific Lodge that is perfect for all-season parties, business events and holiday family gatherings. The cost is \$50 per hour for residents and \$60 per hour for non-residents. Newhoca Park has a small hexagon Pavilion measuring 20 feet that is great for all occasions. There is a \$20 per hour charge for residents and \$25 per hour charge for non-residents. For more Rental details, call 860-870-3520.

### Additional PICNIC AREAS to enjoy...

Fox Hill Tower-Free  
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 and emptying garbage.

### **SPONSORSHIPS**

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

### **SEND A KID TO CAMP**

The Vernon Parks and Recreation Department is looking for sponsorships to send a child to camp this upcoming summer. A \$80 sponsorship can send a child to camp for a full week. Either donate on your own or get a group of people to pitch in and help 1 child.

Our goal is to give 100 children the opportunity to go to camp this summer that may not usually be able to attend.

### **SAVE A LIFE**

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

### **FIREWORKS SPONSORSHIP**

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

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

### **FIELD SIGNS**

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

### **DISC GOLF SIGN SPONSORS**

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

## **Vernon's Historic Barns**

Scattered throughout Vernon are historic barns, reminders of the time when this was a farming community. CT Trust For Historic Preservation's website documents CT historic barns, including 40 in Vernon.

On May 15 Vernon Historical Society's program is on three Vernon barns, all owned and preserved by Vernon Volunteers' Collaborative (VVC) organizations.

### **GUNTHER FARM**

This 22-acre farm on Hyde Avenue is being acquired by the Tolland County Agricultural Center. The Gunther family has owned the farm since the late nineteenth century operating it as a dairy farm until the late 1980s. Their green barn is a 1-½ story English gambrel design with a distinctive metal ventilator and weathervane on the roof. The barn's history includes fire, windstorms, lightning strikes and a death.



Gunther Farm's green barn. Photographer: Jon Roe

continued on page 22



### **VALLEY FALLS FARM**

In 2000 this farm was purchased by the Friends of Valley Falls. The unique stable was constructed by German immigrant Hans Munchow about 1912, probably based on designs from his homeland. Munchow lived in Vernon only three years, but transformed this traditional New England farm into a Gentleman's farm. The picturesque building includes a cupola and will become a heritage center.

Valley Falls Farm stable.  
Photographer: Jon Roe

### **STRONG FAMILY FARM**

For 135 years, this farm served as the home and workplace for more than seven generations of Strongs. Their large yellow barn once housed herds of Holstein milk cows. The original barn burned and was rebuilt in 1917. Today the Strong Family Farm provides a historic agricultural education center where children, individuals, families, and community groups can experience an authentic family farm environment.

As you drive around town, note the barns you see and remember the families who built them and farmed here for generations. Hear stories of our VVC barns at the VHS May program. To learn more about these VVC organizations visit [VernonVolunteers.org](http://VernonVolunteers.org). To learn about other historic barns in Vernon visit [Tankerhoosen.org](http://Tankerhoosen.org).

## **North Central District Health Department**

Vernon's Health District, the North Central District Health Department has a new look as of this summer at [www.ncdhd.org](http://www.ncdhd.org). You can visit the website by typing in this address on your browser line or searching by North Central Health Department, CT. The site is mobile friendly.

In addition to basic information with the district's office locations, hours of operations, and forms the site is constantly being updated with "healthful" information.

Watch for new and seasonal topics displayed each month on the front page via the rotating slides and articles. Click on the links to learn more.

Not everyone is aware that if you are building a deck, putting in a swimming pool, or other structure changes and you have a well or septic; you must go through the Health Department for a review before the building permit is issued.

The Environmental Health section on the website provides detailed information about the procedures in addition to other vital information about mold, bed bugs, radon, and more.

In addition to the Food Recall widget on the front page, the Food Protection section contains information on food handling and storage, licensing

requirements for food operators, the UDSA nutrition guidelines, and other food facts. Disease Prevention covers vital flu facts and information about diseases carried by ticks, and mosquitos.

What are you waiting for? Check out the Calendar of Events in the district, test your Radon IQ, or read the safety tips for eating and drinking when traveling.

Feel free to contact the Health Department on their Contact Form on the website.

Questions? Call 860-745-0383.

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# Great News from Rockville High School!

## Congratulations to Joyce Hida, Caroline Jeffers and Alexandra Ose!

Alexandra Ose is one of the winners of the prestigious Hartford Stage Write-On Playwriting Competition. Every year, student playwrights are invited to develop their own 10-minute plays at Hartford Stage. Winners of the Write-On Annual Young Playwrights' Competition work with a professional playwright in intensive writing workshops to polish their scripts and will see professional actors perform their play.

Caroline Jeffers and Joyce Hida have been named finalists in the Arisia Student Writing Contest for their outstanding science fiction short stories. They will receive a free weekend at the Arisia 2016 Convention in Boston. At the convention, Caroline and Joyce will have the chance to win first, second, or third place for their short stories.



Congratulations to Rockville High School Agricultural Education freshman, Kylie Bowman from Tolland! Kylie was awarded a grant for \$1,000 from the National FFA. The National FFA Organization is an American youth organization, specifically a career and technical student organization, based on middle and high school classes that promote and support agricultural education. This grant will help Kylie expand her Beef Production SAEP, (Supervised Agricultural Experience Program). She is one of only 23 recipients in the United States. Pictured are Kylie and Ms. Laura Manzi - who coached her during the application process. Congratulations Kylie!

War and Pieces, the 2015 Rockville High School Literary Arts Magazine, has won a highly prestigious "Superior" rating in National Council of Teachers of English Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines!

The recognition program was open to all senior high, junior high, and middle schools throughout the United States, Canada, and the Virgin Islands as well as to American schools abroad. Rockville is one of only six high schools (private and public) in Connecticut to achieve the following rating:  
Superior (100-91 points)

"Outstanding writing; wide variety of genres (at least five) represented; meticulous editing; unifying design; high-quality graphics; coherence of theme and design; clear evidence of interdepartmental and interdisciplinary involvement with writings from other subject areas; students dominate editorial, production, and business aspects." From teacher Victoria Nordlund: "I am so proud of the literary arts staff and thankful to all the teachers that helped us with the creation of this wonderful product. Special thanks to Bryan Wright and Dennis Timberman for all their support."



# GRAND OPENING!!

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*Expires 4/30/16*

**Lunch Special**

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*with drink order, dine in only*

**The Buffet Palace**

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**The Buffet Palace**

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*Expires 4/30/16*

# Talcottville Mill Ground Breaking



After several years of effort the vacant mill in the Talcottville section of Town is now under construction. Every effort to retain the historic elements of the building will be undertaken. Vernon's Cutter Enterprises construction company will build and restore the property that will dedicate approximately 10% of its space to attract small professional businesses, i.e., architects, attorneys and consultants. The remaining 90% will be 83 apartment units that attract residents, visitors and customers because of its admirable setting and many amenities offered in the local Talcottville, Vernon Community. The planned landscaping is a restoration of the grounds using historically indigenous 19th Century Connecticut flora. The project is estimated to take 18 months and should be complete by Spring of 2017. Mayor Daniel Champagne said today "The Town of Vernon is encouraged by the private investment in this project and the use of a local business to handle the renovations. This project is a win, win for the Town, the owners and our citizens."

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

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**~ VERNON ~  
POINTS OF INTEREST**

**Belding Wildlife Property**

**Fox Hill Tower**

**Gene Pitney Exhibit  
in Town Hall**

**New England  
Civil War Museum**

**Places of Worship**

**Rails to Trails**

**Rockville Community  
Alliance**

**Rockville Farmers Market**

**Talcottville Historic District**

**Talcottville Ravine**

**Valley Falls Park**

**Vernon Community  
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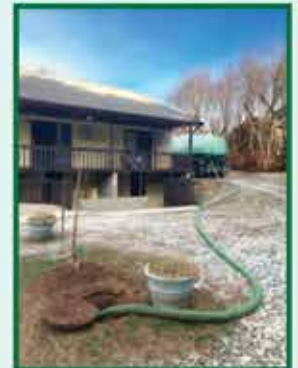
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# Downtown Rockville's Historic Mills & Building Projects

Leslie S. Campolongo, Administration



## CITIZEN'S BLOCK

Visitors to Rockville's downtown may not even recognize "Citizen's Block" as the name of the building located at the end of the Park Place, overlooking Central Park green, but chances are they will once they see its new façade!

Citizen's Block sits among other historical structures located on Park Street, a one-way street that includes Town offices, Senior Center, and the New England Civil War Museum.

Erected in 1879 "out of compliment to the citizens of Rockville," Citizen's Block is a three-story, fifteen-thousand square foot building. Designated as commercial storefront, its first floor is home to volunteer-based Rockville Downtown Association. Its second and third floors were once residential, but have been vacant since 1998, when it was purchased by the town.

In 2014 & 2015, the Town was awarded Main Street Investment funding to renovate the exterior of the building and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Assessment funding to conduct internal environmental studies of the building.

With the funded environmental studies recently completed, work will move to the exterior of the building. Planned façade improvements include the repointing of bricks, replacement of the windows and storefront doors and the resurfacing of woodwork and cornice. Work is scheduled to begin in March and conclude in August. When completed, Citizen's Block will certainly be recognized as the "newest" "compliment to the citizens of Rockville and Vernon.

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for Drain Cleaning!**

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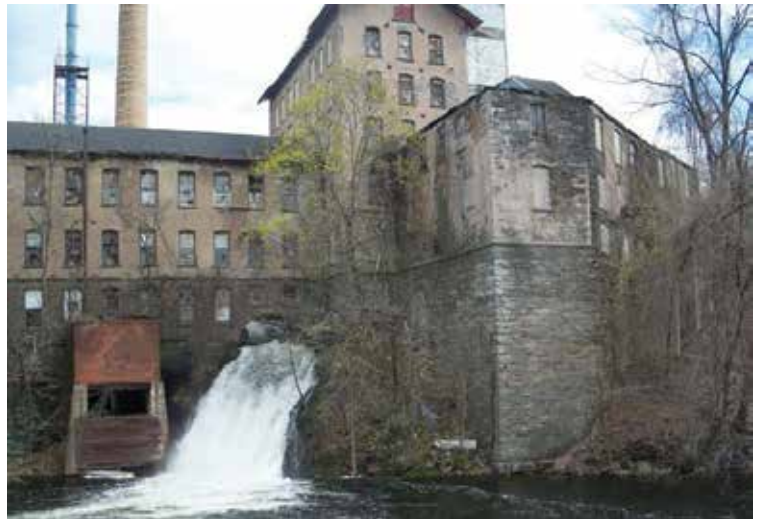
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## FORMER AMERBELLE MILL

With \$4 million dollars in CT Department of Economic and Community Development funding awarded to Vernon in 2014 and 2015, work at the former Amerbelle site has begun to take shape.

In February, interior abatement work began with the removal of hazardous building materials. Shortly thereafter, contractors will be mobilized to begin excavation and selected demolition of some of the structures. A cleaned and improved site will be ready by the fall, making the intersection of Routes 31 and 74 cleaner and greener for our residents and visitors, and a compliment to the work recently conducted by Federal and State agencies at 19 Grove Street, a 3.15-acre site adjacent to the former Amerbelle Mill.



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# Judge of Probate



Hon. O. James Purnell, III, Esq.  
 Judge of the Court of Probate,  
 District of Ellington 12  
 Vernon Town Hall  
 14 Park Place, P.O. Box 268  
 Vernon, CT 06066-0268  
 Telephone: (860) 872-0519  
 Fax: (860) 870-5140  
 jpurnell@ctprobate.gov

Probate Judge: Hon. O. James Purnell  
 Hours: Monday-Wednesday 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
 Thursday 8:15 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Friday 8:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Probate wills and the administration of estates, determines title to real and personal property and trust, appoints guardians for the mentally retarded; remove unfit parents as guardians of their children, grant adoptions, grant name changes. For frequently asked questions regarding the Probate Court visit:  
[www.jud.state.ct.us/probate/faq.html](http://www.jud.state.ct.us/probate/faq.html)

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- probating wills and the administration of estates;
- overseeing testamentary and living trusts;

- determining title to real and personal property; and,
- construing the meaning of wills and trusts.

### Guardians, Conservators and Civil Commitment

- appointing guardians for persons who are mentally retarded;
- approving sterilizations and placements of persons who are mentally retarded;
- appointing a guardian of the estate or person for a child;
- for persons with mental illness and/or for persons who are incapable of managing or administering their own affairs, appointing - conservators of the person and the estate; and,
- committing those suffering from severe mental illness to an appropriate facility.

### Parents

- removing unfit parents as guardians of their children;
- hearing the claims of paternity of unwed fathers;
- terminating the parental rights of parents who cannot fulfill their parental responsibilities; and,
- granting adoptions.

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