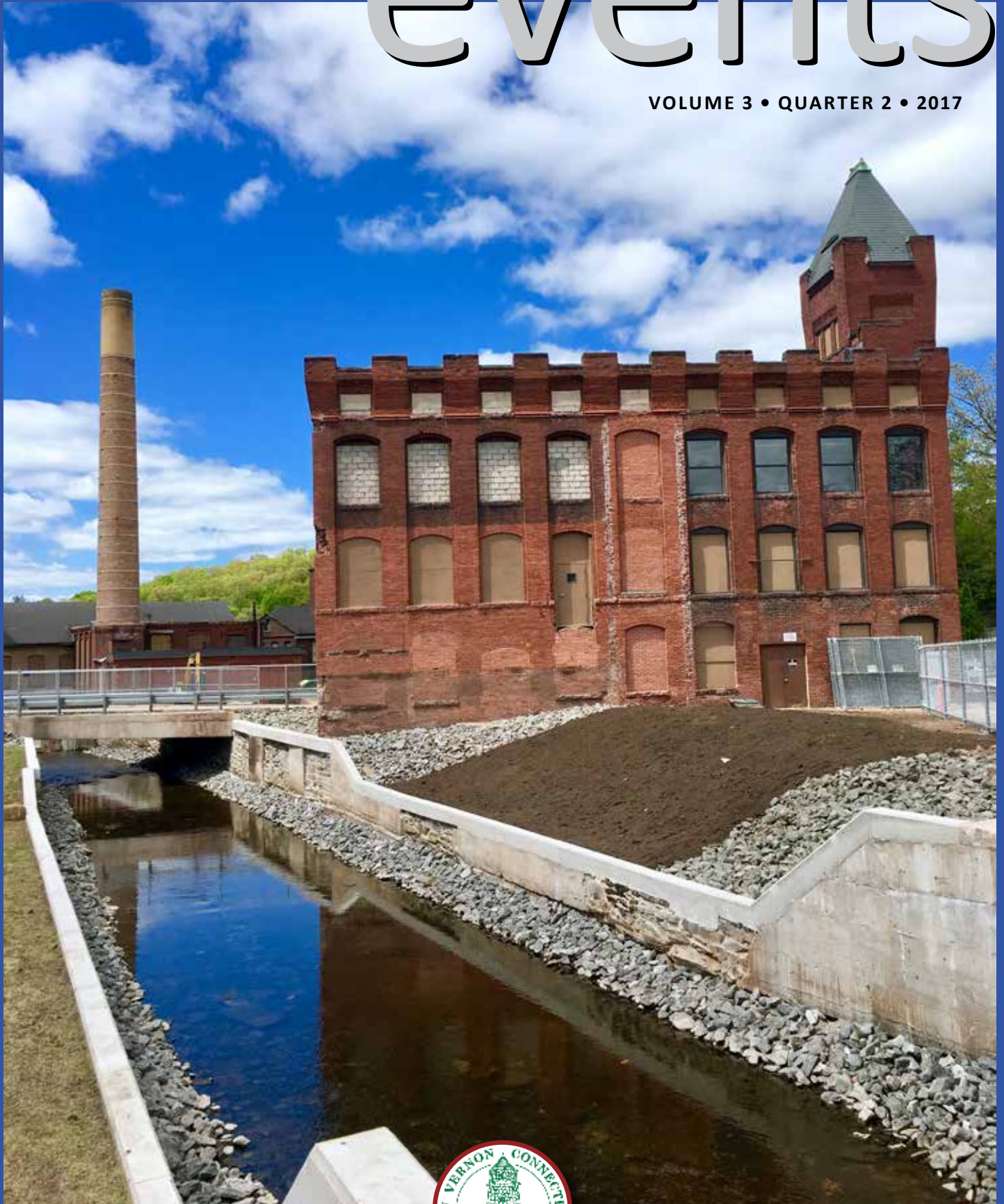


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# The Mayor's Corner

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

As you can see from the cover of this edition, the Amerbelle property is looking very different this spring. Our work with the State has produced a cleaned up, ready to occupy, version of the old Amerbelle Textile Mill. In addition, just across Grove Street is the start of a new park area along Paper Mill Pond. Check out the inside cover story in this issue for more details. Special thanks to our Emergency Management Department for their photography submitted for our cover.

We recently passed a referendum for the purchase of 135 Bolton Road for a new Senior Center, and on May 15, 2017 the Town officially purchased the property. The Town of Vernon has begun conceptual design work for this property and we are looking forward to lots of citizen input in the process. We are particularly interested in our seniors' suggestions for activities to be provided in the new center. I encourage you to go to [vernon-ct.gov](http://vernon-ct.gov) and participate in the survey and share your ideas.

As an update, we are diligently watching the State's actions relative to the budget. We have scheduled another Town Meeting for June 13, 2017 at Rockville High School Auditorium for 7:00 pm. It is hoped that the State will have made its decisions by then and we can move forward finalizing our 2017-2018 budget.

It's that time again to sign up for all the great summer activities offered by our Parks and Recreation and Youth Services Departments. This edition will give you all the information on our summer program offers. Don't delay signing up, the spaces fill quickly.

Just a reminder, the Public Works Department is continuing the town's road bond projects. Please excuse the mess while we repair and reconstruct many streets and sidewalks around town. This work is an investment in our future!

To all the students finishing up another successful year in school, enjoy a safe and happy summer! To those seniors graduating, congratulations on a job well done and good luck in your future endeavors!

Mayor Daniel Champagne



Daniel A. Champagne, Mayor

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**Cover Photo**

Michael Purcaro

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# Cover Story

In 2012, Amerbelle Textile Mill closed operations for good. The Town of Vernon immediately began working with members of the business community, state and federal agencies and the owner to find a reuse for the historic complex. The Town of Vernon continued to seek options for the complex and remedies for the Brownfield issued associated with it. Most recently, the Town of Vernon, DECD and DEEP have created a working group to solve the issues and today the complex has been reduced in density, cleaned up and is ready to be marketed. Take a drive by and see for yourself the massive changes in the area.

# Vernon Cemetery Commission

The Veterans Memorial Walkway has been established at the Lugg Memorial Field at Grove Hill Cemetery. Memorial bricks are available for purchase with the inscription of a veteran's name and additional information. The honored veteran need not have been buried at Grove Hill Cemetery. Proceeds will be used for the maintenance of the Walkway. Visit the Cemetery website for order forms for the Veteran Memorial Walkway. Cemetery Rules and Regulations and a fee schedule for lots and services are also posted on the website. The Cemetery Office is located at 22 Cemetery Avenue at the entrance of Grove Hill Cemetery. Website: [vernon-ct.gov/cemetery](http://vernon-ct.gov/cemetery).



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# Gold Medalist Stacey Shorts 2017 National Winter World Games

Vernon resident Stacey Shorts was recently honored at the May 16, 2017 Town Council Meeting. Gold Medalist Stacey Shorts travelled with her team and family to Austria to compete in the Snowshoeing events at the National Special Olympic Winter World Games. We are extremely proud of Stacey's accomplishments. She is an enthusiastic athlete who trains hard for her competitions. Stacey has also previously competed in the sports of swimming, basketball and gymnastics. Congratulations to Stacey Shorts, Gold Medalist!!! You make Vernon very proud.



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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



# Mayor Champagne Receives State Historic Preservation Office's Municipal Leadership Award

By Leslie S. Campolongo, Administration

On May 18, 2017, Mayor Daniel Champagne was presented the Municipal Leadership Award at the State Historic Preservation Office's (SHPO) annual conference, held at the UCONN Storrs campus. SHPO's Municipal Leadership Award recognizes a municipality for the promotion of local historic preservation during the last year, and is given to honor municipal leaders who support and encourage historic preservation on a regular basis through their actions. It is one of two awards presented annually by SHPO. Mayor Champagne was recognized for his efforts on several historically relevant projects including the former Hockanum Mill (now Kaplan Mill Works), Talcott Brothers Mill, Loom City Lofts, Amerbelle Mill, and Citizen's Block. Mayor Champagne said, "As a lifetime resident of Vernon, it has always been my desire to retain Vernon's rich manufacturing history. For the economic success of any town, it is essential to strike a balance between public and private investment, and historic preservation and emediation. Once achieved, these projects not only



Left to Right: Leslie Campolongo, Julie Carmelich, Mayor Daniel Champagne and John Ward, Town Administrator

beautify the gateways into our community, but close the financial gap for redevelopment, and return them to productive reuse. The Town of Vernon is grateful for the support and partnership of CT Department of Economic and Community Development and the State Historic Preservation Office in these important projects."

## From the Town Clerk ~ Vernon Cemeteries

Vernon has seven cemeteries, five actively in use today and two dormant. Five are town owned and operated. Two are privately owned and operated. The dormant cemeteries are also the oldest with the oldest being Bamforth Road Cemetery, once known as the Vernon Cemetery, the pioneer cemetery located on Bamforth Road with graves dating back to the 1700s.

The other dormant cemetery is Old Dobsonville Cemetery, formerly known as Southwest Cemetery, located in the Dobsonville section of town at the corner of Dobson Road and Talcottville Road. The graves of John Warburton and his wife and daughter can be found here. Grove Hill is the largest cemetery consisting of about 43 acres on the corner of Grove and Hale Streets, and is currently active. It has many monuments and mausoleums built of marble and granite. It also houses the Lucina Memorial Chapel which was the gift of E. Stevens Henry in memory of his daughter, Lucina, in January 1923. Its architectural character is that of rural churches in England. It is said that all the horses in town were required to move

the 46 foot high chapel to its place in the cemetery.

Elmwood Cemetery is active and located in Vernon Center at the corner of Cemetery and Bolton Roads. It is a large triangular terraced plot dotted with numerous trees and known for its large white arch over the road. The monument dedicated to Ebenezer Kellogg, the pastor of Vernon Church for 55 years, can be found here as well as the odd shaped granite obelisk of Lemuel King, of the King Tavern.

The newest cemetery is Valley Falls Cemetery located on scenic Valley Falls Road. It is in a tranquil setting sharing space with abundant wildlife. St. Bernard's Cemetery is operated by St. Bernard's Church and dates back to 1855. It is located at the corner of Tolland and Kingsbury Avenues.

The other private cemetery is Mt. Hope Cemetery located in Talcottville and maintained by the Talcott family. The land was donated by the family and the cemetery was dedicated on the Sabbath of June 30, 1867. The cemetery houses a brown stone shaft memorial to Civil War veterans.

The cemetery has the appearance of a park with its irregular terrain and numerous trees.



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# Friends of Valley Falls ~ Artists' Day at Valley Falls Farm



We like to think of Valley Falls Farm as the most scenic corner in Vernon. The pasture, the red barn, and the iconic stable on the hillside paint a picture unique to our community - and - dare we say, unique in our State.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, we were able to preserve this scenic corner in 2000. Our early years of ownership focused on the repair and restoration of the seven structures on the property. By 2008 we were ready to return the favor to the community, and to invite the public to enjoy the site. The idea of Artists' Day at Valley Falls Farm was born: Vernon's most scenic corner was the perfect place for artists to create, musicians to play and visitors to enjoy a balmy summer afternoon. The first event in 2008 drew over 200 people, and it has become a biannual event since that time.



This year's Artists' Day at Valley Falls Farm will be held on Sunday, August 20. The public is invited to stroll around the fields between 1 and 4 pm, and enjoy the art of the plein air artists painting on the grounds. Other paintings by the artists will be on display in the red barn and will be available for sale. Tours of the historic buildings will be given on the hour, sparked with tales about the intriguing history of the 'gentleman farmers' who once owned Valley Falls Farm. Live musicians will play on the porch of the farmhouse during the afternoon, funded by the Vernon Arts Commission. The herb and flower gardens in the old cold frames, planted and tended by the Vernon Garden Club, add to the experience. Mark your calendar - August 20 - for a quintessential summer afternoon experience at Valley Falls Farm!

Photographer: Tom Griswold

## Vernon Animal Control

Coyotes now have established territories within the Town of Vernon and across the state. The Town has reports of activity in the Brookview Drive area and Valley Falls Park area. Coyotes in the northeast are much larger than their western cousins. This is due to their mating with wolves on their journey east. Coyote or "coy dogs," can weigh between 30-40 pounds. For those of you who frequent Valley

Falls Park, remember that coyotes are territorial and may boldly approach dog walkers, especially in the spring/summer when they're raising their young. Please keep your dogs leashed and under your supervision at all times. Should you be approached by a coyote, do not run, just calmly leave the area. Carry a whistle, air horn, or some other type of noise maker this will frighten the coyotes away.

A helpful reference can be found at [EasternCoyoteResearch.com](http://EasternCoyoteResearch.com). Remember coyotes may exhibit bold behavior around people, however aggressive behavior towards people is very rare. Any coyote sightings or coyotes acting aggressively towards people or supervised pets should be reported to the Vernon Animal Control Department/ Vernon Police Department at 860-872-9126.

## Vernon Senior Center

Vernon Senior Center

26 Park Place / 860-870-3680

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

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

### UPCOMING EVENT

Captain John Kelley, from the Vernon Police Dept., will present on "How to Stay Safe in Your Home," Tuesday, June 20th at 10:00 am. This presentation is free.

We have many more activities and classes. Please come in or you can follow us in the Journal Inquirer. Please feel free to call us with any questions.

# Tax Collector

Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue

Connecticut towns and cities are required to operate on the Uniform Fiscal Year, commencing July 1 and ending the following June 30. Municipalities collect real estate, personal property, and motor vehicle taxes to fund the fiscal year budget. These taxes become due and payable July 1st. For the Town of Vernon real estate and personal property tax bills over \$100.00 may be paid in two installments; motor vehicle taxes are due in full in July.

State statutes dictate the procedures to be followed for the billing and collection of taxes and the record keeping involved. Statutes are strictly construed, with a

town's authority existing only if specifically granted by state statute.

The state statutes provide various means of collection enforcement that may be used by municipal tax collectors for delinquent property tax collections. Past due real estate taxes will be collected through a tax sale to be held this coming August. Motor vehicle, personal property, or business property delinquent collections will be enforced by a state marshal or collection agency. One of the most compelling tools of collection is the statutory interest rate of 18% per year, which is charged on all delinquent taxes. This charge is meant to be a penalty for late payment.

Delinquent motor vehicle tax payments requiring a State of Connecticut DMV clearance require payment in cash or money order (do not pay online if you require DMV clearance).

Payments can be made online at [www.vernon-ct.gov](http://www.vernon-ct.gov) by visiting the Department of Collector of Revenue, or selecting any "BILL PAY" tab from the home page. Payments can be made in person at 8 Park Place Monday-Wednesday 8:30-4:30, Thursday 8:30-7:00, and Friday 8:30-1:00. Payments may be mailed to PO Box 387 Vernon CT 06066. Receipts will be returned to those who include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

# Social Services

Summer in Vernon means renters rebate is in full swing! If you are a senior citizen, or a disabled person renting in Vernon paying 30% or more of your income in rent, you may be eligible for Renters Rebate. For more information please call 860-870-3564. We will be visiting the following housing units on the dates listed. Please see the housing office in the complex to set your appointment for the day we are there. If you are not available that day - no worries. You can call Vernon Social Services to make an appointment for another day:

5/9 - Court Towers	5/24 - Grove Court
6/7+8 - Florence Mill	6/13 - Rose Commons
6/22 - Franklin Park	7/20 - Pitkat

Find us on Facebook! For information about programs and events, please like us on Facebook. Our page is under: Town of Vernon Social Services. We will be updating the page weekly with information on social service programs. If you aren't online or on Facebook maybe a family member can follow the page to get the most current information for you.

Want to help children have a wonderful Christmas? We are looking for sponsors willing to make a child's Christmas special by helping to provide them with a specific toy or toys on their wish list. It's never too early to think about giving back! Please call Candy at 860-870-3564 to join our sponsor list.

# Vernon Building Department

## Do I need a permit for swimming pools?

Summer is upon us once again and swimming accommodations are on the minds of numerous residents within the Town of Vernon. Building, Electrical and Zoning Permits are required for pools with the exception of above ground pools that are less than 24 inches deep and within proper setback from property line. Swimming pools are governed by the Appendix G of the 2012 International Residential Code portion of the 2016 Connecticut State Building Code and the documents and information required are:

**Above-ground Installations:** Manufacturer's specifications and detailed information regarding construction, installation, piping, equipment, electrical, barrier, gates, raised decks, guards, stairs and suction entrapment protection.

**In-ground Installations:** Construction plans and details will be required to be prepared by a design professional showing structural design, piping, equipment, electrical, barrier, gates, and suction entrapment protection.

**Barriers:** There are detailed requirements for barriers to provide protection against potential drowning or injury by restricting access to pool.

**Temporary Enclosure:** Required for in-ground swimming pools.

**Pool Alarm:** Required by State Statutes.

A site plan will be necessary to show the location of the pool, deck and barrier and to be sure the pool is compliant with zoning regulations regarding property line setbacks and allowable lot coverage. An application to the North Central District Health Department will be required if there is a well and/or septic system on the property.

The Building Department (860 870 3633) and Zoning Administration (860 870 3636) are here to answer any questions a resident may have offering the valuable information needed for a smooth pool installation. This department's first concern is life safety, therefore follow State Building Codes for proper installation.

I wish the residents of Vernon a safe and enjoyable summer.

*John L. LaBossiere, Building Official*

# Vernon Police News

## Vernon Police Receive Donations

On February 28, 2017, members of the Maple Grove Club presented Mayor Champagne and the Vernon Police Department a check for \$875 for the department's K-9 fund. The Maple Grove Club, a German/American Heritage social club participates in the annual Summer Days carnival that is held on the grounds of the old Golf Land facility. The club's share of the proceeds is used to further their philanthropic activities in town.

The funds will be used to continue purchasing equipment for the department's two K-9 officers.

On March 31, 2017, Rein's Deli held its grand reopening of its newly remodeled facility in the Shops at 30 on Hartford Turnpike. As part of their celebration the restaurant decided to donate a percentage of sales for the lunch hour to local first responders. The Vernon Police Department was presented with a check for \$500 which will be placed in the department's

equipment fund. That fund is used to purchase items which will further the department mission of providing the best service to the community.

These donations are just two of the many donations received by the police department by our local groups, citizens and businesses. The Vernon Police Department is very grateful to the continued support of our public.

## Vernon Police Join Ranks Of Agencies With D.R.E. Trained Officers

With the de-criminalization of small amounts of marijuana by the Connecticut State Legislature and the legalization of marijuana in Massachusetts, the Vernon Police Department has seen a dramatic increase in Drugged Driving. Recent media studies put the number of impaired drivers under the influence of drugs on our roads as high as forty seven percent. The police department has responded to several serious motor vehicle accidents where the offending operators have been under the influence of marijuana or opioids. Traditional drunk driving enforcement testing does not address drugged driving. In order to combat this rise in

drugged driving, the Police Department received grant funding to participate in a Connecticut Department of Transportation program to train police officers as Drug Recognition Experts. The Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) program is a formal training program which originated in the late 80s with the Los Angeles Police Department and has expanded across the country. The program is an intense two-part education program which combines eighty hours of classroom study with a certification phase in Arizona.

In the academic phase the candidate must demonstrate proficiency in a two week classroom setting where he/she is taught courses in physiology, vital signs and standardized field testing. The candidate must complete this phase of instruction in order to move on to the certification phase in Arizona. The certification phase is held in a controlled environment where the candidate performs a minimum of twelve field tests of individuals under the influence of three of the seven drug categories they are training to recognize. The results of the field tests are then confirmed by toxicological screening. Candidates must also pass a final exam and obtain the recommendation of two instructors to pass the class and receive the title of Drug Recognition Expert. Currently two Vernon Officers are undergoing training in this program. We hope to be able to put more officers through the program in the future.

The Vernon Police Department remains highly committed to keeping our streets safe for the public by maintaining a rigorous DWI enforcement program.



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## Summer Events for Families

Summer activities are primarily family oriented. Specific dates were not available for most Vernon Volunteers' Collaborative activities as this was written, so below are planned programs by organization. As dates become available they will be posted at [VernonVolunteers.org](http://VernonVolunteers.org) under the 'Events' tab. To receive notice of upcoming events please join our MeetUp group. Vernon Parks & Recreation programs are listed elsewhere.

**Belding Wildlife Management Area** - During July and August there are weekly programs for children on a variety of nature topics.

**Friends of Valley Falls** - Tours of the stable and grounds take place each Wednesday during July and August from 1-3 pm. On August 20 FVF hosts their biennial Artists' Day At Valley Falls Farm. (See article.) ([FriendsOfValleyFalls.org](http://FriendsOfValleyFalls.org))

**New England Civil War Museum** - The museum will be open Thursdays as well as second and fourth Sundays during July and August. ([NewEnglandCivilWarMuseum.com](http://NewEnglandCivilWarMuseum.com))

**Strong Family Farm** - Summer is a busy time on the Farm. Volunteers are needed each Saturday from 9-11 am during the season and special events will be scheduled. (See article.) ([StrongFamilyFarm.org](http://StrongFamilyFarm.org))

### Tolland County Agricultural Center

The annual 4-H Fair will be held the week-end of August 12 & 13. With animals and competitions this is a kid favorite. (Tolland-CountyAgricultural-Center.com)



Kids on tractors at TCAC's August 4-H fair.  
Photographer: Jon Roe

**Vernon Greenways Volunteers** - The Volunteers will be maintaining gardens along the Rail-Trail as well as other trail maintenance throughout the growing season. A major project this year will be construction of the Suspended Bridge over the Hockanum River in July. (See article.) Later in the season VGV will coordinate Beetlemania, the annual search for the Emerald Ash Borer and Asian Longhorn Beetle. Additional help is always welcome. ([VernonGreenways.org](http://VernonGreenways.org))

For other locations to hike and explore in Vernon see the recently published brochure "An Outdoor Guide To The Tankerhoosen - Vernon's Green Valley," available at VVC events and online at [Tankerhoosen.info/brochure.htm](http://Tankerhoosen.info/brochure.htm).

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# Vernon Parks & Recreation Department

120 South Street, Vernon, CT 06066 / 860-870-3520 / [www.vernonrec.org](http://www.vernonrec.org)

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

PHONE NUMBER: 860-870-3520

WEBSITE: [www.vernonrec.org](http://www.vernonrec.org)

OFFICE HOURS: Monday- Friday, 8:30 am-4:30 pm  
Thursday, 8:30 am-7:00 pm  
Fridays, 8:30 am-1:00 pm

OFFICE LOCATION: 120 South Street, Vernon, CT 06066

## GENERAL INFORMATION

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

**CONSIDER YOURSELF REGISTERED** – if you do not hear from us. You will be notified if a change occurs or if the program is filled. You are automatically put on the waiting list and your payment returned if the class is filled at the time your registration is received. You may register online at [www.vernonrec.org](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.

**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. Please note that there is a \$5.00 charge per class/session for all refunds and transfers prior to the start date.

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

## PROGRAM PHOTOS

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

## PRESCHOOL & YOUTH PROGRAMS

### FALL DANCE PROGRAM

Dance classes of various styles for children ages 2 and up will be held in the fall. Schedule will be available online in August at [www.vernonrec.org](http://www.vernonrec.org). Classes will begin early September.

### CONTEMPORARY/LYRICAL

This contemporary/lyrical dance class teaches technique and skill through the expressive dance style for children ages 10+.

Wednesdays

June 21-July 26

6:15-7 pm

\$6/class drop in fee

Vernon Teen Center Fitness Room

### ZUMBA KIDS

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

Wednesdays

June 21-July 26

5:30-6:15 pm

\$6/class drop in fee

Vernon Teen Center Fitness Room

### HIP HOP

This Hip Hop class will keep you moving to the beat and having a great time. It is open to children ages 5+.

Mondays

June 19-July 24

Ages 5-10 / 5:30-6:15 pm

Ages 11+ / 6:15-7 pm

\$6/class drop in fee

Vernon Teen Center Fitness Room

### PEE WEE SOCCER

An instructional, coed program for children ages 3-6.

This program focuses on the fundamentals of soccer using a variety of fun drills and activities.

Wednesdays September 6 to October 11

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

Ages 5&6 / 6:15-7:00 pm  
Henry Park Softball Field  
Fee: Resident \$45  
Non-resident \$55

### **CROSS COUNTRY CHALLENGE**

The meet is open to all students in Vernon elementary schools in grades K-5. Experience with running is NOT necessary. The family event stresses participation and fun. All participants will be acknowledged for their efforts. Pre-registration is REQUIRED, we cannot accept day-of or on-site registration. Participation is free.

Participants should arrive 15 minutes before their time.

The race will be held on a Monday night in October, please visit our website later this month for the event date.

Rockville High School Track

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

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

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

### **ADULT PROGRAMS**

#### **ZUMBA®**

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

Mondays & Wednesdays

7-8 pm

Center 375 Gym

Drop In rate: \$6.00/class

#### **POUND®**

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

Thursdays

7-7:45 pm

Vernon Teen Center Fitness Room

Drop In rate: \$6.00/class

#### **ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE**

The Fall Adult Softball league will start the Tuesday after Labor Day Weekend, pending the completion of the Summer League. All leagues play on set nights, no out of town fees for non-resident players. Eight regular season games, all teams make the playoffs. Registration fee is \$570 which includes umpires, new softballs for every game and USSSA registration. Games are held at Henry Park Softball Field and Community Field.

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

NEW TEAMS may begin to register on July 10th.

50% deposit due when registering.

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

#### **MEN'S LEAGUES**

Monday C League

Tuesday D League

Wednesday B League

#### **CO-ED LEAGUES**

Thursday Night League

Sunday Evening League

#### **DISC RENTAL**

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

### **FAMILY EVENTS & BUS TRIPS**

#### **THE READING TRAIL**

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

#### **ARCTIC SPLASH**

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

FREE T-shirts for everyone who pre-registers for the Arctic Splash. Awards for the most money raised by an individual, most money raised by an organization, best individual costume and best team costume. Make sure to check out our website for all the updated information.

#### **AQUATICS**

##### **GUARD START**

This program is designed to give advanced swimmers the foundation of lifeguarding. Participants will learn the skills required to be a lifeguard through hands on practices. Classes will focus on fitness, professionalism, emergency response and accident prevention. Participants must be able to swim the length of the pool continuously, tread water for one minute and swim submerged for 10 feet. This IS NOT a Lifeguard, CPR or First Aid Certification Course.

**continued on page 14**

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

Mondays through Thursdays. Fridays used for make-ups.

11-15 years old

9:00 am-9:45 am

Horowitz Pool

\$50 residents, \$60 non-residents

Session 1: 6/19 - 6/30

Session 2: 7/17 - 7/28

### GATORS SWIM TEAM



Swimmers 18 years old and younger, Join the Gators Swim Team! Make new friends and improve your technique while having fun under the sun. All swimmers should be proficient in one or more strokes and able to swim the length of the pool. The season runs from late June through early August. Practices will be week-day evenings Monday-Thursday at Horowitz Pool in Henry Park, with a weekly competition in the Central

CT Swim League. All team members will receive an individual Vernon Aquatics pool pass for the 2017 season, a Gators swim cap and T-shirt! Monday through Thursday mornings, swimmers may attend optional stroke clinics to improve their techniques. Due to league rules, we may only accept non-residents from Tolland, Bolton, Ellington and Manchester. Registration Fee: \$130

### SWIMMING LESSONS

Offered for children 18 months old through 14 years old.

Programs range from Baby and Me classes through level 5/6.

Lessons meet for eight classes over two weeks, Monday through Thursday with Fridays used for make-up classes. Swimming lessons are held at Horowitz Pool in Henry Park & Community Pool at 375 Hartford Turnpike. In the event a swimming lesson is cancelled we will notify participants via e-mail. If we do not contact you, assume the class is running. Refunds/credits are not provided for missing a scheduled class.

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

### SESSION DATES

Session 1: 6/19 - 6/30      Session 2\*: 7/3 - 7/14

Session 3: 7/17 - 7/28      Session 4: 7/31 - 8/11

\*No class on 7/4, no pm sessions at Horowitz Pool

### COMMUNITY POOL (375 Hartford Turnpike)

Baby & Me: 11:45 am, 5:00 pm

Introduction: 10:45 am, 6:00 pm

Level 1: 11:45 am, 5:00 pm

Level 2: 10:45 am, 6:00 pm

Horowitz Pool (120 South Street)

Level 2: 10:45 am

Level 3: 11:45 am, 5:00 pm

Level 4: 10:45 am, 5:00 pm

Level 5/6: 11:45 am, 5:00 pm

### REGISTRATION MINIMUM/MAXIMUM

All lessons are group classes with no more than six participants per class. Classes must reach a minimum of four participants to run. The registration deadline is Wednesday prior to the first day of class, we will make every attempt to run all advertised classes. If your class does not reach minimum participation level, you will be notified on the Thursday prior to the first class and a full refund will be provided.

### LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS

If a participant is registered for a class not appropriate for their ability, instructors will let you know on the first day of class. Participants may not remain in a class that is inappropriate for their ability. Every attempt will be made to transfer your registration to an appropriate class during the same session. If this is not available, you have the option to transfer your registration to a class in a later session, or have a credit applied to your account.

#### Swim: Baby & Me - 18 months-3 years

Introduce your child to the water in this unstructured program. Staff is available to offer tips using activities, toys and songs. Participate with your baby in your grasp. One parent per child required. Swim diapers required.

#### Swim: Intro to Level 1 - 3-4 years

This class is for your beginning swimmer to prepare for Level 1. Basic introduction to breath control, basic floating and balance in the water, changing directions and rolling over, and using a personal flotation device (PFD) are covered. Parent participation is optional.

#### Swim: Level 1 - 5-14 years old

Level 1 Swim - Swimmers learn water safety rules, safe water entry and exits, breath control, basic floating and balance in the water, changing directions and rolling over, and using a personal flotation device (PFD). Parent not required, goggles are suggested.

#### Swim: Level 2 - 5-14 years old

Level 2 Swim - Swimmers learn how to float and balance in the front, back and side positions, underwater movement and retrieval skills, water safety, and movement. Goggles are suggested.

#### Swim: Level 3 - 5-14 years old

Level 3 Swim - Swimmers learn kicks used in all swim strokes, pulls used in side stroke and elementary back stroke, treading, rules for safe diving, HELP and Huddle positions with PFD, reaching assists. Goggles are suggested.

#### Swim: Level 4 - 5-14 years old

Level 4 Swim - Swimmers learn underwater swimming, surface diving, pulls for competitive strokes, whole-stroke swimming of all strokes, and safe diving rules. Goggles are suggested.



**Swim: Level 5/6** - 5-14 years old

Level 5/6 Combo Swim - Advanced Swimmers refine the Breast and Side Strokes and begin short lap swimming using the front and back crawl, flip turns, and surface dives and begin the Butterfly Stroke. Participants learn the skills needed to be on a competitive swim team. Goggles are suggested.

**SUMMER PROGAMS**

**KIDDIE DANCE CAMP**

This camp is for children ages 4-6 years old. Campers will enjoy a fun-filled morning to keep their feet moving to the beat. Numerous dance styles will be taught, including tap, jazz and hip hop. Tap shoes are recommended, but not required. Dancers of all abilities are welcome. Camp will be directed by Jessica Foster and other Beyond Dance staff.

Monday through Friday

August 14-18

8:30-11:30 am

Center 375 Dance Room

Fee: \$75

**FULL DAY DANCE CAMP-AGES 7-12**

This camp is for children ages 7-12 years old of any dance ability (novice to experienced). 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: June 26-30

Session 2: July 10-14

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

**HALF DAY DANCE CAMP-AGES 11+**

This intensive camp is for dancers with prior experience. Participants will do concentrated work on numerous dance styles with main focus on Hip Hop and Contemporary.

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## Parks & Recreation... continued from page 15

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, bring a snack and plenty of water.

Monday through Friday

Session 1: June 19-23

Session 2: July 17-21

8:30-11:30 am

Rockville High School Wrestling/Dance Room

Fee: \$75/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 14-18

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 14-18

1-4 pm

Camp Newhoca

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

### SUMMER DAY CAMP



Registration continues to be accepted for summer day camps as long as space is available.

Vernon Parks & Recreation offers day camp at Center 375, Valley Falls, Henry Park and Newhoca. Full details and availability can be viewed online at [www.vernonrec.org](http://www.vernonrec.org).

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

Session 1: June 19-June 23

Session 5: July 17-July 21

Session 2: June 26-June 30

Session 6: July 24-July 28

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

Session 7: July 31-August 4

Session 4: July 10-July 14 (Olympic wk)

Session 8: August 7-August 11 (End Bash)

**POST CAMP:** August 14-18

### FEES PER SESSION:

Sessions 1-2, 4-8

Center 375 and Valley Falls Camp:

Residents: \$85 Non-Residents: \$90

Henry Park Camp: Residents: \$70 Non-Residents: \$75

Camp Newhoca: Residents: \$100 Non-Residents: \$105

Kiddie Camp: Residents: \$85 Non-Residents: \$90

Extended AM: Residents: \$25 Non-Residents: \$30

Extended PM: Residents: \$35 Non-Residents: \$40

### SESSION 3

Center 375 and Valley Falls Camp:

Residents: \$70 Non-Residents: \$75

Henry Park Camp: Residents: \$60 Non-Residents: \$65

Camp Newhoca: Residents: \$80 Non-Residents: \$85

Kiddie Camp: Residents: \$70 Non-Residents: \$75

Extended AM: Residents: \$20 Non-Residents: \$25

Extended PM: Residents: \$28 Non-Residents: \$33

Post Camp: Residents: \$125 Non-Residents: \$130

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 thereafter.



### FOX HILL MEMORIAL TOWER

Fox Hill Tower overlooks the famous Connecticut Valley and presents a panorama of some of the most charming landscape scenery to be found in New England. From its summit, 693 feet above sea level, a magnificent view. The lowest point in the town is at the corner of West and Union Street, which has an elevation of 32.6 feet. The Tower is located in Henry Park,

120 South Street at the top of the hill. Come during free open hours Wednesday evenings, Saturday and Sundays to view the magnificent view.

Saturdays & Sundays, May 27-November 12, 1-4 pm

Wednesdays, May 31-August 30, 6-8 pm

### PICNIC/PAVILLION/LODGE RENTALS

Parks and Recreation have a variety of picnic areas, pavilions, a Showmobile stage and a beautiful lodge available for rent.

### HENRY PARK:

Our majestic Memorial Tower at Fox Hill makes a picturesque wedding setting. You may rent this location for a 3-hour timeslot. There are several free picnic areas available to park visitors in

all parks. 2 larger picnic areas are available to reserve for your events. In Henry Park, the Grove by the Pool and the Grove by the Softball Field are available in 4-hour time blocks. The Horowitz Pool is available for private pool parties and includes lifeguards and pool use.

**THE RUSSELL G. HARTMANN PAVILION:**



The Russell G. Hartmann Pavilion makes a wonderful all-weather venue for family gatherings, baby showers, birthday parties and business events. It is available for rent all year round. Our mobile stage, the Showmobile, is ready for local or out of town rentals on a daily basis. Price includes delivery, set up, break-down and removal. Multi-day rentals are also available.

**NEWHOCA PARK:**

Our beautiful Newhoca Lodge is the perfect place to hold meetings, baby showers, receptions, business events, memorial services and family parties. Heated in winter and A/C cooled in the summer, this versatile cabin in the woods is our most popular rental site. We also have a Pavilion here. Book early to get your reservation!

**VALLEY FALLS PARK:**



The Valley Falls Pavilion, near a scenic beach and Rails to Trails, is available for rent and includes grills and picnic tables. Bathrooms are available for an additional fee. Lifeguards must be on duty for visitors to swim in the water at any park property. Non-Profit groups may get a discounted rate per venue.

any park property. Non-Profit groups may get a discounted rate per venue.

**\*\*NO ALCOHOL IS ALLOWED AT ANY PARK PROPERTY\*\***

**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)

continued on page 18

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## Parks & Recreation... continued from page 17

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. An \$85 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.

### FIREWORKS SPONSORSHIP

The annual fireworks will be held on Wednesday, July 5, 2017 (Rain date: July 6, 2017). 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.

## Parks & Recreation Fishing Derby



<b>John M. Gessay Trophy</b>	<b>Boys 11-15 years old</b>
Joshua Shemanskis	Logan Shemanskis
<b>Boys 6 and under</b>	<b>Girls 6 and under</b>
Connor Kearns	Cheyenne Shemanskis
Gabriel Shemanskis	Sierra Shemanskis
Liam Hernandez	Alyzayah Shemanskis
<b>Boys 7-10 years old</b>	<b>Girls 7-10 years old</b>
Johathan Thibodeau	Kiera Cyr
Wyatt Shemanskis	

Saturday April 29th the Town of Vernon Parks and Recreation Department held the 52nd Annual Fishing Derby at Valley Falls Pond. The Derby had great support from JT's Fly Shop, Discount Trophy and Wolff Financial & Granby Bait. Children 15 years old and younger came to cast their lines in hopes of walking away with the John M. Gessay trophy for the heaviest trout. The Fishing Derby is divided into 6 divisions with prizes and medals given to the first, second and third of each division. There was a steady stream of fish catches ranging from .24 pounds to .83 pounds.

## Vernon Summer Days Carnival

The 9th annual Vernon Summer Days Carnival will be held July 26th through July 29th at Connecticut Golf Land in Vernon. The gates open Wednesday through Friday at 6:00 pm and Saturday at 5:00 pm. All rides are unlimited with the purchase of a wrist band and individual ride tickets are also available. There will be a game midway and a food court. Sponsors are the Rockville

Exchange Club, the Maple Grove Club and Vernon Parks and Recreation. The Carnival benefits charitable programs such as KidsSafe, Fidelco, "Send a Kid to Camp" scholarship program. Further information is available from Steve Wakefield, event Chairman, 860-573-6544 or Stephen Krajewski, Vernon P&R at 860-870-3520.

# July in the Sky Fireworks - 72nd Year

The Town of Vernon would like to invite all to the annual July in the Sky Fireworks Display scheduled for Wednesday July 5th (rain date July 6th). The sky will light up with an amazing fireworks show that is the envy of surrounding communities. Thanks to our two main sponsors, Price Chopper and Superior Energy, this event would not be possible. A special thank you to McDonald's and Lisa Walsh for their cookout prior to the event taking care of all the staff working that night. The Vernon Parks and Recreation Department and the Rockville Community Alliance, along with the various Town of Vernon Departments, Fire Dept., Fire Marshal, Police Dept., Public Works, Building and Engineering and Ambulance Dept. deserve credit for all their hard work!

For more information contact Stephen Krajewski, Vernon Parks & Recreations Dept. at 860-870-3520 or [www.vernon-ct.gov](http://www.vernon-ct.gov). For more information for Downtown, contact Tom DiDio, Events Chair, Rockville Community Alliance at 860.646.5320.

There are two sites, Downtown Rockville and Henry Park, to enjoy activities, great food, entertainment and to meet up with friends or neighbors to watch Vernon's "Signature Event," the July in the Sky Fireworks.

Sticking with tradition, a salute (loud boom) will go off at 6:00 to signify the fireworks will be shot off that evening. Henry Park will be closed at 4:00 for all activities. Gates will open at 6:00 at Henry Park and Downtown Rockville. Henry Park will charge \$5 per car and \$1 walk-ins.

## HENRY PARK ACTIVITIES

Superior Energy's "Fun Zone." Bracelets are \$10 for over 10 different rides.

The activities will start at 6:15 and will run until 9:15. Bracelets will be sold for \$10 which will give people access to all activities. Bracelets will be sold at the field.

Entertainment will be provided on the portable stage.

Food court consisting of all kinds of goodies.

United Bank Foundation will be sponsoring the entertainment and the "Food Court."

The Whale 102.9 will be on site 'Rocking out' in the Fun Zone. Laurie Hessler will be doing face painting.

Glow toys and balloons will be sold throughout the Park.

## SUPERIOR ENERGY FUN ZONE

The "Fun Zone" which is held up at Henry Park, is guaranteed to generate fun and excitement for kids of all ages. The "Fun Zone" will be held on the Frank J. McCoy baseball field.

The activities will start at 6:15 and will run until 9:15. Bracelets will be sold for \$10 which will give people access to all activities. Bracelets will be sold at the field.

## ACTIVITIES

Hamster Ball rolls of fun

Rock Wall will add to the excitement

Monkey Motion Jumper: Soar up to 20 feet in the air - the "front to back" additional movement creates a new dimension of fun.  
Laser Tag: Unbelievable, awesome fun!! Shoot and hide behind inflatable bunkers. Blasters are equipped with rubber tips and foam covered barrels for added safety.

Big Daddy's Racing: Come enjoy racing cars around a 30x30 track. Computer scoring will determine the winner.

Obstacle Course: This course is over 65 feet long with plenty of thrills and spills through the 7 element course, then up and over the rock climb and slide.

2 Bounce Houses: For the younger children, after a few minutes of bouncing they zip down the slide.

Rock Wall climb to the top if you can.

## UNITED BANK FOUNDATION

Is the proud sponsor of the entertainment and the food court. Some of the food being served includes fried dough, wraps, kettle corn, ice cream and much, much more.

## DOWNTOWN ROCKVILLE ACTIVITIES


Push, Pull and Pedal Patriotic Parade

Watermelon & Hula Hoop Contests

Big Jim's Fabulous Foam Machine

Bounce Houses & Entertainment


continued on page 20



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435 Hartford Turnpike  
Vernon, CT 06066  
860-872-2425  
[www.dunbarjewelers.net](http://www.dunbarjewelers.net)

## Fireworks... continued from page 19

Local Businesses & Crafts:

\$10.00 bracelets for all night, or buy tickets for \$1.00 each\*  
Mechanical Safari Animal rides (Main Street), tickets \$2/ea. not included in bracelets.

Come meet Miss Greater Rockville and Miss Rockville's Outstanding Teen.

Singing of the National Anthem by Rockville's own Emily Hawley.

Mill Street Auto - Push, Pull and Pedal Patriotic Parade.

Kids of all ages can bring any non-motorized mode of transportation to parade for the holiday.

Bring your own decorations or we will have them available for the kids.

Meet in the Ladd & Hall parking lot (near Court Street) at 6:45 for the 7:30 start.

Trophies will be awarded at 7:15 prior to the march down Main Street.

This is so much fun to be in or to just watch the kids enjoying themselves.

### THINGS TO KNOW

ARRIVE EARLY at Henry Park to take advantage of the parking (\$5 per car) available and to select a preferred seating location, and bring blankets and chairs to assure comfortable seating for an evening of fun and entertainment!

When parking you CANNOT LEAVE until the show is over which is approximately 10 pm. Cars will be boxed in  
NO PETS!! Pets will not be allowed into the parks.

Henry Park will close at 4:00 for all activities

Tower Road will be closed at 10 am, there will be no foot traffic or vehicles allowed.

NO BICYCLES, NO SKATEBOARDS allowed in the park.

NO FIREWORKS, NO SPARKLERS allowed.

NO ALCOHOLIC beverages allowed in the park.

TRAFFIC RULES BEGINNING AT 6:00.

### ROAD CLOSURES AT HENRY PARK

Spruce Street

Tower Rd after 10 am

Henry Park portions of Thomas St.

### NO PARKING

Vernon Avenue

McLean Street

South Street

### ONE SIDE PARKING

High Street

Howard Street

Fox Hill Drive

Reed Street

Kevin Drive

Hale Street Extension

Earl Street

Crown Street

### ROAD CLOSURES IN DOWNTOWN ROCKVILLE

Main Street will be closed at 6:00 pm.

St. Bernard's Terrace, Park Street and Park Place will be closed to traffic.

### NO PARKING ZONES

Court Street, east side only between East Main Street and Brooklyn Street,

North side between entrances to Rockville Professional Center and Vernon Avenue.

West Main Street, between Vernon Avenue and Union Streets.

## Outdoor Concert Series

The Town of Vernon's Parks and Recreation Department is proud to announce that the outdoor concert series will be back another year. The first concert is scheduled for Thursday July 27th. Last year was well attended and everyone enjoyed a variety of music. The schedule will consist of 5 concerts, an increase of one.

The concerts will take place at Henry Park on Frank McCoy Field starting at 7:00 pm near the picnic grove. Please bring lawn chairs to enjoy the music.

In case of inclement weather, the concerts will be held at the Senior Citizen Center on 26 Park Place, 2nd floor.

A recording will be placed on the Park and Recreation Department's phone line, 860-870-3520. The following businesses have sponsored a concert:

Superior Energy of Vernon, Vernon Arts Commission, and Farmington Bank.

We have room for one more sponsor, if interested, please contact

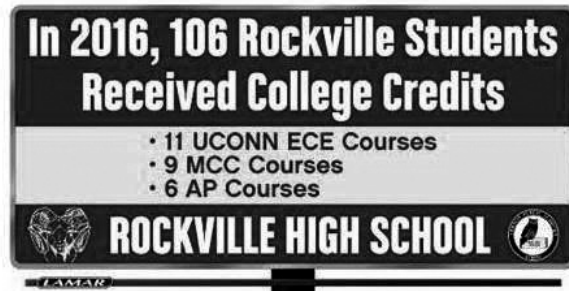
Stephen Krajewski at the Vernon Parks and Recreation Department at 860-870-3520.

## New Director of Family, School and Community Partnerships

Vernon Board of Education is pleased to announce that it has appointed Cynthia Zingler to the position of Director of Family, School and Community Partnerships. Cynthia brings vast experience in education as well as strong community ties to Vernon. This new department is called the “Office of Family, School and Community Partnerships” which will be based at Central Office and is committed to provide structures to create life-long learners of Vernon students. The creation of the Office of Family, School & Community Partnerships is only possible through a grant of the Hartford Foundation for Public School Giving. The work of this office will include implementing structures and supports around family engagement, supporting families for partnership around student learning and coordination and collaboration with stakeholders to ensure access to available and appropriate resources. (Cynthia may be reached at 860-870-6000 ext. 4662 or [czingler@vernon-ct.gov](mailto:czingler@vernon-ct.gov)) Welcome Cynthia!



## Vernon Public Schools Billboards



Have you seen our billboards lately? Every month a new Vernon Public School’s billboard is featured prominently at the juncture of Loveland Hill Road and Route 83. We are proud of our student accolades and school accomplishments and they should be shared with the entire community. The Board of Education has worked hard on providing school, family and community communications via the billboard. We hope that you have enjoyed them!

## Rockville High School Cupcake Extravaganza



For the sixth year in a row, students at Rockville High School were paired with either a teacher, social worker, paraprofessional, principal and even a police officer to compete in a cut throat cupcake competition. The event, which is based on Food Network’s Cupcake Wars, is taken very seriously. Contestants practice for weeks preparing to wow the judges. Sixteen pairs baked in round one, with only seven pairs advancing to round two. The judges, all

professionals in the baking field, had their work cut out for them as well. Two of the judges, Nicole & Jeremy Braddock of Hardcore Sweets, actually competed and won on the television version of Cupcake Wars. “There were cupcakes presented that I would sell in my shop,” said Nicole.

**continued on page 22**

## Cupcakes Extravaganza ... continued from page 21

Contestants had to make two different cupcakes based on the theme, "Habitat for Humanity." The Habitat for Humanity theme was picked because it is one of the charities that benefitted from proceeds collected at Cupcake Extravaganza. Those who advanced to round two were responsible for making three different cupcakes, each inspired by a pie flavor. Additionally, each team presented their cupcakes on a display, which was part of their score. The teams came up with amazing ideas for their pie inspired cupcakes and their displays.

All of the cupcakes were offered to the public at a culminating event on April 20th. All in all, nearly 1,800 cupcakes were made

from scratch and sold to benefit Habitat for Humanity and The Multiple Sclerosis Society. Raffle prizes and entertainment were also offered. Every student enrolled in a culinary class played an important role. For instance, non-competitors were responsible for making 1100 of the cupcakes provided that evening as well as presenting the cupcakes, selling tickets and obtaining raffle prizes. Everyone in the building has the chance to help "save the world, one cupcake at a time."

This year, several hundred people attended the event. Over \$6,000 was raised for our charities.

## Congratulations to Rockville High School Poets!



Tanner Bosse, Kaleigh Perkins, Lauren Porlier and Katelyn Murtha, represented Rockville High School in the CT Slam Team Finals at the Bushnell on Sunday, April 30th. They were all incredible!

Congratulations to Kaleigh Perkins and Tanner Bosse who made the 2017 Connecticut World National Youth Slam Team. They will be part of a slam team of four that will tour New England for the next few months.

## New Electronic Visitor Management System

The Vernon Public Schools is proud to announce the implementation of a new electronic visitor management system that was implemented in all of our school buildings on Monday, April 3, 2017. This new system upgrade has been acquired to better protect our children by tracking visitors, contractors, and volunteers who come into our schools.

Upon entering our schools, all visitors will be required to report to the school's main office and present a valid, government issued, photo identification which will be scanned into our electronic visitor management system. A current photo of all visitors will be taken, and a temporary visitors badge will be printed. The system has the ability to provide alerts on individuals who may jeopardize the safety of our schools, including checking the national sexual offender registry.

Checking into the visitor system will not be required for anyone dropping off or picking up an item in the main office. However, if you need to sign out your student during the school day, you will need to present your photo identification so school staff may verify your identity. Additional information is available on our website at [www.vernonpublicschools.org/visitors](http://www.vernonpublicschools.org/visitors). A frequently asked questions guide is listed below to provide you with answers to common questions you may have.

The safety and security of our students and staff is our top priority and we appreciate your cooperation and support in enhancing our school security procedures.

### VISITORS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### **Why am I required to make an appointment to visit my child's school 24 hours in advance?**

Vernon Board of Education policy requires that appointments during school hours be made in advance by all visitors to minimize disruption of administration, teaching and staff duties. To make an appointment, please contact your school's main office.

#### **Why do you require a valid, government issued photo ID for me to visit my child's school?**

The safety and security of our students and staff is of the utmost importance. We require a valid, government issued, photo identification from all visitors so we can positively verify the identity of everyone in our facilities. If you do not have photo identification, you may make an appointment with our Logistics and Safety Supervisor to provide alternative documentation to verify your identity.

#### **Do I need to bring my ID with me every time I visit a school?**

Yes, you will need to bring your valid, government issued, photo identification with you anytime you visit our schools, including when picking up your child.

#### **What happens when you scan my government issued photo ID?**

By scanning your ID card, the system extracts your name and date of birth and enters it into our visitor management system and compares it to the national sexual offender database. If no



matches are found, a visitor badge will be printed and you will be permitted to enter the school.

**If a positive match occurs indicating that a visitor is a registered sexual offender, what will happen?**

In the event that a sexual offender attempts to enter one of our schools, our office staff will receive a discreet alert and have been trained to handle the situation in a professional and non-confrontational manner. It should be noted that the Vernon Board of Education policy prohibits sexual offenders from being on school property during school hours or any school related function.

**I am a parent, but I am a registered sexual offender; can I visit my child's school?**

We encourage parents to be part of their child's educational process and have put policies in place to ensure that you are able to attend meetings and events. You are required to meet with the Superintendent in advance of your visit to your child's schools so we may review the policies and procedures with you.

**What information is stored by your system?**

Your name, date of birth and photo will be stored in our secure, online, visitor management system as well as the date and time of your visit.

## From the Office of the Superintendent

VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

30 Park Street • P.O. Box 600

Vernon, CT 06066-0600

Website: [www.vernonpublicschools.org](http://www.vernonpublicschools.org)

Developing District Coherence and Capacity in the Vernon Public Schools - A Message from the Superintendent:  
A Pathway Forward 2016-2017

The philosophy of the Vernon Public Schools is to drive the district towards educational excellence and the belief that all students can and will learn, by advocating a "whole child" approach to student learning, maximizing student performance and setting high expectations, and integrating family and community with the educational system.

**The District Goals are to:** build and improve relationships and partnerships with family and community; increase the achievement of every student through a high quality curriculum, instruction and assessment; and promote safe environments that are socially, emotionally, and physically conducive to learning.

For the past year, our district and school improvement agenda focused on a small number of key priorities: 1) ensuring a relevant curriculum aligned to common core standards, 2) providing tiered student interventions for both academics and behaviors and 3) providing students with rigorous academic tasks. In order to create the conditions for schools to maximize student learning - there needs to be effective leadership at all levels of our system.

In an effort to take the district to the next level of educational excellence, our district leadership team of central office

administrators and building principals continue to focus on building coherence and capacity throughout the district. Collectively, school and district leaders have identified a set of right and wrong district improvement drivers (Fullan, 2011) current in the Vernon Public School system. The Leadership Team codified these improvement drivers that will improve student achievement in Vernon by transforming the Strategy for Improvement document into a Blueprint for Success. The essence of both documents is grounded around the Instructional Core (Elmore, 2000) with a focus on the Learning Task. The Instructional Core is the relationship between the student and teacher in the presence of content. The Learning Task in each instructional interaction has the potential to cognitively engage students in the educational process and both deepen and broaden student learning.

The Vernon Public Schools Blueprint for Success employs five district and school-level improvement drivers that will enhance and support our work around the Instructional Core.

The five improvement drivers are:

- Rigorous Curriculum
- Talent Management
- Family Engagement
- Professional Learning
- Student Interventions

Each driver is integrated into the instructional core and linked to learning. The vision of the Vernon Public Schools is to maximize student achievement, by setting high expectations for individualized learning and focusing on the Instructional Core. Leadership priorities and continuing support for high quality instruction for every child will be grounded in the Vernon Public Schools Blueprint for Success to take to district to the next level of educational excellence. Together we can accomplish great things for the children and families we serve.

# Vernon Youth Services Bureau

Welcome to the Vernon Youth Services Bureau. The YSB is a Town of Vernon department that provides prevention and intervention programs, coordinates services to youth and refers youth and families to needed services. The YSB has been providing these services for well over 35 years.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Vernon Youth Services Bureau is a Town of Vernon Department dedicated to providing:

- Program Coordination
- Information and Referral
- Prevention Services
- Early Intervention Services
- Resource Development
- Community Involvement
- Youth Advocacy

In this issue, I would like to share news about important Prevention Work currently taking place in Vernon and highlight Youth Services Summer programs.

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION

This year, the Partnership for Success Grant is providing expanded opportunity for the Vernon Community to collaborate around the planning and implementation of prevention strategies to reduce substance use and abuse among Vernon Youth. This Federal Grant of \$150,000 for five years has been awarded through the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to the Village for Families and Children-KIDSAFE. Vernon Youth

Services is partnering with the Village for Families and Children-KIDSAFE and key agencies such as Hockanum Valley Community Council, the Vernon Police Department, ERASE, Vernon Public Schools, Vernon Park and Rec. and a number of others. The grant will provide funds as well as technical assistance to strengthen the Vernon Community around prevention efforts in Vernon.

## 2017 SUMMER PROGRAMS

Summer Youth Employment: the YSB partners with Capital Workforce Partners to offer jobs for income eligible youth. Youth must be 16 years of age and must be enrolled in school up to 12th grade. Youth hired for the summer employment program work for 20 hours/week for six weeks between July and August. For more information, contact Kim McTighe, Prevention Program Specialist at: [Kimberly.mctighe@vernonct.org](mailto:Kimberly.mctighe@vernonct.org).

The Summer Fun Program offers fun programs for 20 youth in grades 1-5 and runs for six-weeks from July-August. Our focus this summer is nutrition, exercise, reading and plenty of time for play. There are two 3-week sessions, \$80/session/youth. For more information contact: Oz Ramos, Youth Counselor: [oramos@vernon-ct.gov](mailto:oramos@vernon-ct.gov). The YSB provides free lunches to any youth 18 year and younger at three lunch sites. Lunches are served from 11:45 am-12:30 pm. This is a federally funded program and our partners are: State Department of Education, Vernon Parks and Recreation, Park West Apartments and Vernon Public Schools. For more information contact: Michelle Hill at [mhill@vernon-ct.gov](mailto:mhill@vernon-ct.gov). For information about any of our programs, call 860-870-3555.

# Freebies at the Vernon Transfer Station

Many residents are not aware of the “freebies” offered at the Vernon Transfer Station. The Transfer Station is located on Hockanum Boulevard; normal business hours are Wednesdays and Saturdays 8 am - 4 pm and Sundays noon - 4 pm.

A permit and punchcard are not required for the following:

- 1) Excess refuse and recycling throughout the year
- 2) Metal - includes items that are at least 75% metal. Does not include freon units (refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers, and air conditioners).
- 3) Electronic Waste - includes desktop computers, laptops, key boards, power cords, chargers, mice or similar pointing devices, PDAs, portable digital music players and other personal e-devices, televisions, computer monitors, printers, fax machines, scanners, small electronics including VCRs, DVRs, DVD players, cable receivers, digital converter boxes and game consoles.
- 4) Yard Waste - A small amount of brush (equal to what would fit into the trunk of a car) and one trash bag filled with weeds, tree trimmings, pine cones, pine needles, etc. will be accepted.

Large amounts of brush require a permit & punchcard.

- 5) Waste Motor Oil & Antifreeze - Put oil and antifreeze into a clean plastic container such as a clean laundry detergent container with a screw-on cap. Label container. Do not mix oil and antifreeze. Leave container at designated area at Transfer Station. (5-gallon max per visit)
- 6) Lead acid batteries
- 7) Mulch (Seasonal) - Free to Vernon residents (proof of residency required). Residents are responsible for loading their own mulch.
- 8) Paper (shredded) - Place shredded paper in a brown paper grocery bag and staple it closed. Large amounts accepted.
- 9) Books/DVDs/VHS tapes & cassettes - A collection container is available at the Transfer Station. Place books in a cardboard box with lid so that boxes may be stacked within the container.
- 10) Fluorescent Lightbulbs – tubes and household compact fluorescent lights

Robert J. Kleinhans  
Director of Public Works

# Town of Vernon Fire Department

## Part 2 of a 3 Part Series on the history of the Town of Vernon Fire Department / Early Beginnings - Vernon Fire District

Excerpts from an original article written by Norman R. Strong

In the early times, it was the responsibility of everyone to be very vigilant in the use of fire and anything that could cause it to go out of control. If a fire started in a barn or house, one would abandon any effort to extinguish it and direct their attention on saving of any nearby buildings. Neighbors would run to help with ladders and buckets upon seeing a cloud of smoke, as there were very few telephones to use to call for help. Many years later with the onset of WWII, the federal government made available a fire pump, motor, and hose mounted on a two-wheel trailer. Chief William Conrady



Old Vernon school after conversion into a fire station

of the Rockville Fire Department applied for two of these units. Not having use or a place to store them, he offered them to the rural areas of Vernon if we would organize a fire department and secure a properly heated place to house them in.



On March 23, 1943, a meeting was called for all those interested in forming a fire department, in the basement of the County Home School [Now the site of the Vernon Police Department]. The rural town was divided into three areas with each to have its own district, naming Vernon Center to be Company #1, Dobsonville to be Company #2 and Talcottville to be Company #3. Three commissioners, one from each district, were also elected to have oversight of the whole area, with each district being responsible for raising its own financial obligation for housing and equipment. Thomas Hefferman was elected first Fire Chief of the three companies and Howard Huelsman was elected Assistant Chief. The Vernon Fire District was born. Learn more about us and come join our volunteer family. [www.vernonfire.com](http://www.vernonfire.com)



# Strong Family Farm Open For Business!



We opened on June 14th with free "The Farmers Cow" ice cream, while it lasted. The stand was funded in part by the CT Department of Agriculture Viability Grant for the purpose of selling only locally CT grown and produced items. Some of the featured items in June are local fresh strawberries, award winning Smyth's Trinity Farm milk, Walt's Bees honey (in part from the farm), LuAnn's bakery items, farm pickles, relishes and much more.



Store hours are Wednesday through Friday 1-6 and Saturday 9-2. On Saturdays, Strong Family Farm members receive 10% discounts, so consider becoming a member. The farm has a Volunteer Work Day every Saturday morning from 9-11 am from June throughout the summer. There is always work to be done on the farm, especially weeding and planting the garden. This is a good opportunity for students to fulfill their Community Service hours and families to work together in a garden

and reap some of the benefits. More hands make easy work while supporting your community farm.

The farm is also replacing the fencing on Peterson Road. We need to purchase 60 posts and 177 split rails for a new fence. The farm started a project to pay for this by offering plaques to put on the rails for \$50 and posts for \$100 in honor of, or in memory of, special people in their lives. You can even name it for a local business or non-profit.

For other summer and fall activities check our website at [StrongFamilyFarm.org](http://StrongFamilyFarm.org). Mark your calendars for the October 21 Harvest Festival. Fun for all the family and we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of our barn. Member Vernon Volunteers' Collaborative.

Photo Credits: [dv-photography.com](http://dv-photography.com)

# North Central District Health Department

Enfield - 31 North Main Street, Enfield, CT 06082  
(860) 745-0383 Fax (860) 745-3188  
Vernon - 375 Hartford Turnpike, Room 120, Vernon, CT 06066  
(860) 872-1501 Fax (860) 872 1531

Windham - Town Hall, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT 06226  
(860) 465-3033 Fax (860) 465-3034  
Stafford - Town Hall, 1 Main Street, Stafford Springs, CT 06076  
(860) 684-5609 Fax (860) 684-1768

## Be Vigilant in Conducting Daily Tick Checks

Spring is here, and with spring, comes ticks. The North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) encourages parents to be on the alert for ticks – peak season is from April to September. Children are particularly high risk! The incidence of Lyme disease is higher in children under the age of 10 than in any other age group. Most cases of Lyme disease are associated with the nymphal stage of the deer tick. Nymphs are small (about the size of a pinhead), difficult to spot, and are active during the late spring and summer months when you and your family spend more time outdoors. “By using recommended personal protection techniques consistently, you can be assured that you and your children can enjoy the outdoors without fear of Lyme disease or other tick-borne illnesses,” said Patrice Sulik, NCDHD Director of Health.

### Residents are reminded to protect themselves this tick season by taking simple action steps:

- Know where ticks live and avoid these habitats.
- Conduct daily tick checks on family and pets.
- Remove ticks promptly with tweezers. Do not use rubbing alcohol or soap and water to remove the tick.
- Dress appropriately when entering areas where ticks live.
- Wear long pants, light in color, tucked into your socks; wear long shirt, tucked into pants; cover hair with hat.
- Remove and check clothing for ticks after leaving any suspect tick habitat.

- Use insect (and tick) repellent to further reduce tick exposure.
- There are many varieties including botanical, herbal or natural-based repellents. Choose what is right for you. For more information on repellents visit the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station <http://www.ct.gov/caes/lib/caes/documents/publications/bulletins/b1010.pdf>. Use veterinarian recommended control products on pets. Be sure to follow manufacturers' recommendations.

For more information on Lyme disease and tick control visit the NCDHD website at [www.ncdhd.org](http://www.ncdhd.org).

### About NCDHD

The North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) serves the communities of Enfield, East Windsor, Ellington, Stafford, Suffield, Vernon, Windham, and Windsor Locks. NCDHD is a full-time public health department with a full-time staff funded by its member towns and an annual per capita grant from the Connecticut State Department of Public Health. NCDHD provides professional public health services in the areas of health education and disease prevention, environmental health and emergency preparedness. The mission of NCDHD is to prevent disease, injury and disability by promoting and protecting the health and well-being of the public and our environment. For more information about NCDHD visit [www.ncdhd.org](http://www.ncdhd.org).

Patrice A. Sulik, MPH, R.S.  
Director of Health

## Water Pollution Control

The Town of Vernon Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) has received its new discharge permit from the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. This new permit requires the facility to reduce the amount of phosphorous it discharges to the Hockanum River by November 2020. This limit is one of the lowest required by a WPCF in the state. Phosphorous is a nutrient that when left unchecked can promote algae growth in fresh water bodies like the Hockanum River. This excessive nutrient can accelerate and promote algae growth in far greater amounts than it occurs naturally.

This abundance of algae can reduce the amount of sunlight that can reach plant and organisms below the surface and when the algae dies will reduce the dissolved oxygen that organisms need to survive. This reduces the water quality and makes for an unsightly and unhealthy environment. Currently, the WPCF is not designed to reduce phosphorous. In addition, the last upgrade to the facility was in the mid-1990s and its mechanical and structural components will need replacement or rehabilitation. The Town has hired an engineering firm, Tighe & Bond to draft a facility plan to determine: what is the

current state of the facility, how it can be improved upon to reduce phosphorous, and what needs to be done to the mechanical/structural components to get the facility through its next 20 year life cycle. This facility plan will be completed in the coming months and the recommendations will be reviewed on how these goals will be achieved.

Although 2020 seems like a long way off, these projects take a considerable amount of time to plan, design and construct. Look for future articles for updates on the progress of this upgrade.

# Sergeant Charles Dart Gravestone Restoration



The Sons of Union Veterans are proud to announce a fundraising campaign for restoration of the gravestone of Sergeant Charles Dart. Sergeant Dart was the regimental color bearer of the 14th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry at the Battle of Fredericksburg on December 13th 1862. He was shot twice while carrying the regimental flag, a position he volunteered for, during the Union assault on Mayre's Height. Charles Dart truly gave his "last full

measure" for flag and country at Fredericksburg dying a week later from his wounds. Before he died he said that he would, if possible, volunteer for the same honorable position.

The object of the fundraiser is to restore the original gravestone from the weather damage of the past 154 years and preserve it for future generations. The grave monument is located in The Grove Hill Cemetery in Rockville Connecticut. Our goal for the project is to raise \$3000 to restore and clean the original gravestone. Nelson Architectural Restoration Company of Willington, Connecticut will complete the restoration.

Donations can be sent to the Sons of Union Veterans Treasure Hank Cullinane at 14 Park Place Rockville, CT 06066, or made online at <https://www.gofundme.com/preserve-charles-darts-gravestone>. Your contribution will be greatly appreciated by all and help preserve the memory of such a patriotic hero from the Civil War.

Thank You

Sons of Union Veterans

Alden Skinner Camp #45 / 14 Park Place / Rockville, CT 06066

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

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# Vernon Greenways Volunteers Assist in 100+ Foot Bridge Build

Beginning on Saturday, July 8 the Vernon Greenways Volunteers will assist in the building of a 100+ foot Suspended Bridge (think Indiana Jones) over the Hockanum River.

This enhancement is near Windsorville Road (Route 74) and across the street from the Sewage Treatment Plant. The bridge will be built on the old trolley line and directly connect the Vernon Hockanum River Trail with its counterpart in Ellington. The current setup sends the hiker down a trash filled and sometimes flooded Route 74 to a left turn on Franklin Avenue and 1/16 mile walk to a wooded entry and doubling back to a separate non-thru trail in Ellington.

The project will be led by Dave Smith, Vernon Town Engineer, who will design, as well as lead the construction. A suspended bridge differs from a suspension bridge in that the walkway is not leveled, but is allowed to retain a natural dip. Suspended bridges have been used for centuries for foot traffic, particularly in mountainous locations throughout the world. The project will take 5 to 6 Saturday commitments by participants.



Vernon Greenways Volunteers is a 70 member organization that assists the Vernon Parks and Recreation Department in the maintenance, enhancement and proper use of the trail system in Vernon. Photo Credit: Bridges To Prosperity

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# Essex Printing Wins Competition



Essex Printing has been honored for the quality of its work. On April 5th, the Print Industries of New England (PINE) announced Essex Printing as an Awards of Excellence winner in PINE's Awards of Excellence competition. The announcement was made during PINE's Industry Awards Gala, held at the Mechanics Hall in Worcester, MA, with hundreds of industry professionals in attendance.

The Awards of Excellence Competition attracted over 320 entries from 41 printing and imaging companies across New England competing in a variety of printing and graphic communications categories such as best annual report, direct mail campaign, labels & packaging, and more.

"We are honored that PINE has again selected Essex Printing for this prestigious distinction. Consistently winning Pinnacle Awards means that the company and its employees demonstrate a deep commitment to the company's customers and the quality of work produced on a day in and day out basis," said William McMinn, President of Essex Printing. "We look forward to continuing to meet our customers' needs and objectives with top quality print and customer service."



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