

# VERNON, CONNECTICUT



*2008 - 2009*

## ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

# VERNON TOWN COUNCIL 2009



Standing left to right: Council Members Mark Etre, Daniel Anderson, Deputy Mayor Brian Motola, Mayor Jason L. McCoy, Council Members Sean O'Shea, and Daniel Champagne.

Seated left to right: Council Member Marie Herbst, Judith Hany, Town Administrator John D. Ward, Council Member James Krupinski, Council Member Bill Campbell, and Council Member Harry Thomas.

Missing: Council Members Pauline Schaefer and Michael Winkler.

## THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Town of Vernon  
14 Park Place  
Vernon, Connecticut

Dear Citizens:

It is my honor and privilege to present to you the Annual Town Report for 2008-2009. The report is an opportunity to share with you a year of department activities, as well as the Town's many accomplishments.

This year was special for many reasons. On August 18, 2008, Governor M. Jodi Rell joined us to mark the rededication of the newly renovated third floor of our Memorial Building, better known to all as the Town Hall. Through the efforts of many administrations and the assistance of Governor Rell, the project was completed. I welcome the public to come and view it.

We also finished celebrating our Town Bicentennial with many activities including two parades, a re-enactment of the first Town Charter signing and many more too numerous to mention. However, we also lost a very popular and well-known member of our community, former Mayor Stephen C. Marcham. Mayor Marcham was best known for his cooperative spirit and his ability to bring life to Rockville through events like *Acapella Slam* and *July in the Sky*. Mayor Marcham will be truly missed.

As your Mayor, I believe that that government has a responsibility to our citizens for public health, public safety and public education. I believe that we must be able to afford to live in the Town so that government must be accountable to our citizens for its spending. My staff and I worked diligently to navigate the difficult economic environment of 2008-2009 by cutting costs, applying for several million dollars in grants and implementing new technology, to increase services at a lower cost.

To achieve savings, we have done a number of things: we have invested heavily in technical infrastructure to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery of services and moved forward with technology by introducing on-line options for viewing and paying bills through Official Payments Corporation at [www.officialpayments.com](http://www.officialpayments.com) and registering for Parks and Recreation programs at <http://activenet10.active.com/vernonparksandrec>. Department Heads also researched new software to improve efficiency and implement time saving measures. An example of that is GeoTMS, which is used by the building, fire marshal, planning, engineering and zoning departments. We have made inroad toward reductions in the expenditures for telecommunications and we have moved our bridge projects ahead.

The Town of Vernon continued its Conservation Policy for all employees; prohibiting idling of vehicles, requiring the use of hybrid vehicles where possible and investigating and using reduced energy options such as light bulbs and other load reducing measures. The Administration had high efficiency lighting installed and required fuel reductions across the board



All departments were instructed to work on grants to lessen the burden on the taxpayers. During 2008-2009 over \$2 million in grants were applied for, projects ranging from Parks and Recreation to Police, Social Services to School Readiness. With Congressman Courtney's assistance, two hundred thousand dollars (\$ 200,000) was obtained to help Amerbelle improve their facilities. The President's Stimulus Package Program for "shovel ready projects" also received over 100 submissions from the Town of Vernon. We can be very proud of our Town Department Heads for their dedication to this task.

My administration further took on rebidding several of our standing contracts with an eye toward reducing costs. We rebid our Health Insure, ensuring a savings of savings of four hundred thousand (\$400,000) dollars for the Town savings.

The year 2008-2009 produced personnel changes as well, Town Administrator Christopher Clark left and John D. Ward was hired as his successor. Department head changes resulted with new hires in Engineering, Terry McCarthy; Fire Marshal, Ray Walker; and Building Official, Peter Hobbs was hired to replace Gene Bolles, Building Official who passed away in 2008, and longtime employee Carol Nelson, Collector of Revenue retired in 2009. Dan Sullivan, the Human Resources Director retired after ten years of service. His role was filled by the new Assistant Town Administrator, Mr. Peter Graczykowski. Vernon is lucky to have such dedicated and talented town employees.

The School Bond Projects continue to move forward, with \$17,727,167.00 of work that was expended for repairs and renovations to Rockville High School, VCMS and the 5 elementary schools. Projects will continue to be completed in the upcoming fiscal year as well. It is not anticipated that all projects will be complete until 2010.

As you drive around town, you will notice the many streets that have been paved and reconstructed including Bolton Road. In July of 2008, the Town Council voted to add nine streets to the normal allotment of street reconstruction projects and federal funding brought us the reconstruction of High Street and the Phase I and of the reconstruction of Prospect Street.

My Administration has made bridge projects a priority and as a result, West Main Street, Vernon Avenue, River Street and Spring Street were among the bridges in design and construction this year. We placed a bond for the Phoenix Street Bridge and Main Street Talcottville Bridge on the ballot. The Phoenix Street Bridge was approved but Talcottville was voted down. As we move forward, we will continue to push for these bridges to be completed in a timely fashion.

With all these changes, I believe that the taxpayers of Vernon saw the hard work of this Administration and rewarded us with a Town Budget that passed early and quickly. Let me thank you for your support and confidence in my ability to serve as your Mayor.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers who serve on our communities many boards, commissions and committees. These individuals devote many hours each month to their assignments and we are lucky to have them. Volunteers are the foundation of any organization and through their efforts; we enjoy a strong community spirit and a rich sense of community.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Mayor.

Respectfully,

Jason L. McCoy, *Mayor*  
Town of Vernon

---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

Town Assessor	6
Collector of Revenue	7
Data Processing	8
Finance & Accounting	9
Town Clerk/Registrar of Vital Statistics	47

**EDUCATION**

Vernon Board of Education	49
Center Road School	53
Lake Street School	55
Maple Street School	55
Northeast School	56
Skinner Road School	56
Vernon Center Middle School	57
Talcottville School	60
Rockville High School	60

**HUMAN SERVICES**

Vernon Housing Authority	64
North Central District Health Department	65
Senior Citizen Center	71
Social Services Department	73
Youth Services Department	74

**MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT**

Building Department	76
Engineering Department	77
Parks and Recreation Department	79
Planning Department	81
Public Works Department	83

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

Animal Control Department	86
Fire Department	86
Fire Marshal	88
Police Department	89

**UTILITIES**

Water Pollution Control	96
-------------------------	----



# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

---

## Town Assessor

---

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:**

David Wheeler, Town Assessor  
Christine Clarke, Deputy Assessor

**LOCATION OF DEPARTMENT:**

Town Hall Annex - 8 Park Place, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

**RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES:**

The Town Assessor has the sole responsibility of determining the fair market value of all real estate and personal property in the Town. Each year the Assessor updates real estate records to reflect changes such as new construction and building permits pertaining to changes to existing structures. Tax maps are updated to reflect lot splits and new subdivisions as they are approved. Over ten thousand three hundred real estate records must be reviewed each year as the Assessor prepares the upcoming grand list. If no change occurs to a property, the assessment remains the same until the next Town Revaluation. All Connecticut towns are required to perform revaluations every five years. The Town of Vernon is scheduled to perform a revaluation for the October 1, 2011 Grand List, which is a listing of all real estate parcels and business and personal property within Vernon. A copy of the entire Grand List is available for public review.

Personal Property refers to any property used or associated with a business operating in Vernon. Currently, there are 1400 business ventures operating in Vernon as of 10/01/2008. Maintaining accurate records is important, especially since businesses are always opening or closing. Annual filing of Personal Property Declarations is now available on-line.

In many ways, you may think of the Assessor's Office as a central database for all real and personal property records. There are more than 25,000 motor vehicles registered in Vernon. Assessments are based on the average retail value, as reflected in the N.A.D.A. pricing manuals. As motor vehicles are sold, purchased, traded, stolen, or removed from Vernon, the Assessor's Office staff must constantly make changes to reflect the most recent records possible. The Assessor's responsibility also includes overseeing the implementation of various tax exemption programs such as Elderly, Veterans, and disability programs, which are geared to assist qualified citizens in Vernon. All programs are regulated by the State of Connecticut. The Assessor sends monthly reports to the Office of Policy and Management detailing activities and providing statistical data for state grant and revenue reimbursement programs.

Recent office renovations make access to records easier with the aid of two computer terminals, a printer and workstations for those professionals researching real estate files. Recent changes in computer software allows for greater efficiency and retrieval of information. We are in the process of making all real estate property records available on-line 24/7.

**2008 Grand List Summary:**

M-13 Report filed with O.P.M.	
Real Estate Assessments:	\$1,671,702,240
Personal Property Assessments:	\$ 77,115,195
Motor Vehicle Assessments:	<u>\$ 157,557,926</u>
Gross Grand List:	\$1,906,375,361
Less Exemptions:	<u>\$ 15,676,250</u>

**Net Taxable Grand List:** **\$1,890,699,111**

<b>2007 Grand List</b>	<b>2008 Grand List</b>	<b>Net Change</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
\$1,883,861,849	\$1,890,699,111	\$6,837,262	.0036%

---

## Collector of Revenue

---

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:**

Carol Nelson, Collector of Revenue

**LOCATION OF DEPARTMENT**

Town Hall Annex - 8 Park Place, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

**RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES:**

Property taxes are the major source of funds for the Town, accounting for roughly two thirds of the Town's revenue. The Collector organizes and coordinates the collection activities of the Town. State Statutes, Town Charter, and Town Ordinances dictate the procedures to be followed for the billing and collection of Town taxes. The Collector is responsible for collecting the highest percentage of taxes available to meet budgetary requirements.

Each year the Collector receives authorization from the Town Council to have tax bills prepared from the Town's Grand List of owner's of real estate, personal property, and motor vehicles. Legal notices are posted, as required by law, to advise taxpayers of the due dates and final dates of payment before penalty charges apply.

The Collector has the responsibility for maintaining accurate records of all transactions, accounting for all monies collected, and submitting all revenue to the Town Treasurer. Reports are submitted on a regular basis to both the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management as well as to the Town Clerk's Office as dictated by state statute.

Duties of the Revenue Collection Department are many and varied. In addition to accepting tax payments and issuing receipts, the department issues permits and punch cards for the Transfer Station, takes payments for parking tickets and infractions, and accepts sewer user payments.



---

## Data Processing

---

### **DEPARTMENT HEAD:**

Art Beirn, Director of Data Processing

### **LOCATION OF DEPARTMENT**

Town Hall Annex 2nd Floor - 5 Park Street, Vernon, CT 06066

### **RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES:**

The Data Processing Department manages the utilization of the data center resources, town-wide networks (WAN, LAN & Wireless), application support, web-based services and desktop support for all Town of Vernon Departments, the Board of Education and Public Safety. This includes the research, administration, development and maintenance of all data center resources, town-wide Intra-networks, Internet & Extranet network connectivity, desktop computers, laptops, multi-media equipment, application software, peripheral equipment and handhelds. The Data Processing Department also consults with Town departments to review current and potential computerized applications, and evaluates and recommends the acquisition of computer hardware and software. It is also responsible for working with Administration to establish data processing policies, procedures, and schedules to maximize the efficiency of the Town's computer systems, networks, and end user operations. Additionally, Data Processing supports 134 handheld devices, the Rockville Downtown Association open port Wi-Fi network, and the Town Council Chambers audio/video technology.

### **SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:**

#### DESKTOP SERVICES PROVIDED:

- Responded to 1600+ service requests during the year
- Set up 35 PCs, 60 handhelds, 45+ printers, 100+ for scan to folder and trained all end users
- Basic training for all technologies

APPLICATION SERVICES PROVIDED: This year, Town Departments received Intranetwork connectivity; new software and hardware upgrades; Town-wide Active Directory & Email; Blackberry and other wireless connections; Internet & Extranet network connectivity. Additionally these services were provided:

- **FINANCE DEPARTMENT:** Software upgrade and system support of MUNIS financial systems; Migration from Linux server to new virtualized server.
- **TAX ASSESSOR DEPARTMENT:** Operational/system support of the property assessment system for real estate, personal property, and motor vehicle taxes; Conversion to new PROVAL software.
- **COLLECTOR OF REVENUE:** Operational/system support of the tax receivables, collections and billing; Conversion to new QDS software.
- **BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS DEPARTMENT:** Operational/system support of financial and budgeting systems, school payroll system and zero based budgeting system.

- REGISTRAR OF VOTERS: Network and P/C support for the equipment connected to the State Interactive System Voter Database; provided laptop support for election processing.
- VERNON CEMETERY ASSOCIATION: Operational/system support of Cemetery Record keeping.
- PARKS AND RECREATION: Operational/system support of RecTrac® enrollment software, Consulted on web-based software for the scheduling of sport teams and sponsored events/programs via the Internet.
- DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS: Managed and maintained software, and network for the maintenance of all town owned vehicles using RTA® Fleet Management Software.
- SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT: Created group network for shared access to files and printers; Implementation of new scheduling software.
- POLICE DEPARTMENT: Developed new Data Center; Virtualized ten servers; Developed new servers for Nexgen Software upgrades and new Wireless Mobile application; Established framework for Town-wide Disaster Recovery Model.
- EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Supported the coordination of global electronic emergency communications.
- WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY: Supported the migration and implementation of Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA), which receives data continually from over 2200 points within the sewer plant providing constant monitoring.

---

## Finance and Accounting

---

### **Department Head:**

James M. Luddecke, Finance Officer and Treasurer

### **Department Location:**

Town Hall Memorial Building, Second Floor, 14 Park Place

### **Responsibilities and Duties**

The mission of the Finance Department is to institute and promote comprehensive financial management designed for the coordination, control, analysis and planning dedicated to the provisions of community services. Inherent in this resolve is the theory that “good” government can be defined by accountability, equity, and efficiency in the management of financial resources for the public benefit. To further this resolve is the adherence to legal, moral, and professional standards of conduct in the fulfillment of our responsibilities.

The financial statements are presented in two types of disclosure. The first, Government-Wide Financial Statements, capture the activities of the Town as a whole entity, utilizing an accrual accounting system,

similar to those used in private sector companies. The second type, Fund Financial Statements, unlike the whole entity approach, utilizes a modified basis of accounting for governmental activities through separate fund and account group entities, each with its own balance sheet. Thus, from an accounting and financial management viewpoint, a governmental unit under this type of disclosure is a combination of several distinctly different fiscal and accounting entities, functioning independently of the other funds and account groups. The financial exhibits and schedules presenting both types of disclosure will be found on the final pages of this report.

The Finance Department of the Town is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure designed to ensure that the assets of the Town are protected from loss, theft, or misuse, and to ensure that adequate accounting data are compiled to allow for the preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. The internal control structure is designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that these objectives are met. The concept of reasonable assurance recognizes that:

- the cost of control should not exceed the benefits likely to be derived and;
- the valuation of costs and benefits requires estimates and judgments by management.

All internal control structure evaluations occur within the above framework. We believe that the Town's internal control structure adequately safeguards assets and provides reasonable assurance for the proper recording of financial transactions and for compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

In addition, the Finance Department is responsible for the following: To provide supporting documents and to assist in the preparation of the annual budget and; to establish budgetary controls to ensure compliance with the legal provisions embodied in the annual appropriated budget for the General Fund and other adopted budgets. Project-length financial plans are maintained for the Special Revenue Funds and Capital Project Funds.

Also, the Finance Department prepares the *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report*; coordinates the cash flow and investment of all Town funds; prepares the official statement for bond and note issues; manages debt service activity and structure; and manages and allocates resources for the capital improvement program; administers the pension fund, insurance and benefit programs, and purchasing programs; directs financial improvements to departments as necessary and; oversees activities in Tax Collection and Assessments.

### **Independent Audit**

The Town Charter requires an annual audit of the books of account, financial records, and transactions of all administrative departments of the Town by independent certified public accountants selected by the Town Council. This requirement has been complied with and the auditors' report has been included in the report.

### **Awards**

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the Town of Vernon for its *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)* for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008. The Certificate of Achievement is a prestigious national award-recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government reports. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement,

the Town of Vernon published an easily readable and efficiently organized *CAFR*, whose contents conform to program standards. The *CAFR* must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year only. Vernon has received a Certificate of Achievement for the last fourteen consecutive years. We believe that our current report continues to meet the Certificate of Achievement Program's requirements and we have submitted it to the GFOA to determine its eligibility for another certificate.

<b><u>General Fund Revenues and Other Financing Sources</u></b>						
	<b>June 30, 2009</b>		<b>June 30, 2008</b>		<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	
		<b>% of</b>		<b>% of</b>	<b>from 2008</b>	
<b>Revenue Sources</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>%</b>
Property taxes	\$ 52,186,924	68.28%	\$ 49,913,095	66.73%	\$ 2,273,829	4.56%
Intergovernmental	21,194,696	27.73%	20,870,957	27.90%	323,739	1.55%
Charges for services	1,421,907	1.86%	2,223,776	2.97%	(801,869)	-36.06%
Interest on investments	199,312	0.26%	670,210	0.90%	(470,898)	-70.26%
Licenses and permits	406,025	0.53%	497,149	0.66%	(91,124)	-18.33%
Gifts and contributions	-	0.00%	-	0.00%	-	
Other revenues	440,074	0.58%	402,155	0.54%	37,919	9.43%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>75,848,938</b>	<b>99.25%</b>	<b>74,577,342</b>	<b>99.70%</b>	<b>1,271,596</b>	<b>1.71%</b>
Other Financing Sources:						
Transfers in	576,876	0.75%	223,892	0.30%	352,984	157.66%
<b>Total Revenues and Other Financing Sources</b>	<b>\$ 76,425,814</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 74,801,234</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 1,624,580</b>	<b>2.17%</b>

<b><u>General Fund Expenditures and Other Financing Uses</u></b>						
	<b>June 30, 2009</b>		<b>June 30, 2008</b>		<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	
		<b>% of</b>		<b>% of</b>	<b>from 2008</b>	
<b>Function</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>%</b>
General government	\$ 3,026,387	3.98%	\$ 2,903,470	3.90%	\$ 122,917	4.23%
Community development	217,126	0.29%	228,828	0.31%	(11,702)	-5.11%
Public Safety	7,381,590	9.71%	7,288,175	9.79%	93,415	1.28%
Maintenance and Development	5,681,841	7.47%	5,445,696	7.32%	236,145	4.34%
Human Services	899,092	1.18%	837,812	1.13%	61,280	7.31%
Parks, recreation, and culture	1,305,429	1.72%	1,773,120	2.38%	(467,691)	-26.38%
Town wide	6,167,528	8.11%	5,961,569	8.01%	205,959	3.45%
Education	45,808,219	60.24%	44,864,204	60.29%	944,015	2.10%
Capital Outlay	117,423	0.15%	296,916	0.40%	(179,493)	-60.45%
Debt Service	3,254,029	4.28%	2,379,422	3.20%	874,607	36.76%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>73,858,664</b>	<b>97.12%</b>	<b>71,979,212</b>	<b>96.73%</b>	<b>1,879,452</b>	<b>2.61%</b>
Other Financing Uses:						
Transfers out	2,187,322	2.88%	2,436,676	3.27%	(249,354)	-10.23%
<b>Total Expenditures and Other Financing Uses</b>	<b>\$ 76,045,986</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 74,415,888</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 1,630,098</b>	<b>2.19%</b>

## **Local Economy and Major Initiatives**

### ***Local Economy***

The Town of Vernon is a residential community of 18.6 square miles located 14 miles east of Hartford on Interstate 84 in north central Connecticut. Interstate 84, traverses the Town, having four interchanges within the Town's borders, and connects with I-90, I-384, I-91 and I-291, which provide convenient highway access to all areas of Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York. Additional accessibility is provided by U.S. Route 44 and State Routes 30, 31, 74, and 83. National and international air service is provided by Bradley International Airport, which is only thirty minutes from Vernon. The well-situated access provided by Interstate 84 within the Greater Hartford area has contributed to Vernon's development as a residential suburban community and a regional commercial center for neighboring towns.

The economic base for Connecticut, as well as for Vernon, has had an overall change from that of manufacturing to retail commerce and professional services. Of the top fifteen firms in Vernon, 90.7% are employed in services while only 9.3% are employed in manufacturing and printing. Approximately 64.6% of this employment is with non-profit and public organizations. The largest Vernon employer is the Town of Vernon, which has 844 employees. The second largest employer is Rockville General Hospital with 585 employees, followed by Visiting Nurse and Health Services with 348 employees, New England Mechanical Services with 228 employees, Stop & Shop with 206 employees, Ticket Network with 201, Price Chopper, the State of Connecticut and Fox Hill Nursing and Rehabilitation with 196 each and Vernon Manor with 195.

In Vernon, the number of individuals employed by the top ten companies increased by 49 or 1.05% during the past year. Some of the decreases in employment included (11) for the Town of Vernon, (12) at New England Mechanical and (27) at Price Chopper. Increases in employment included 20 at Rockville General Hospital, 15 for Visiting Nurse and Health Services, 12 for Vernon Manor, 19 for Stop & Shop, 24 at Ticket Network and 9 at Fox Hill.

Vernon's population for the year ended June 30, 2009, was 29,839 compared with 29,620 on June 30, 2008, an increase of 219 or 0.73%. This increase of 219 residents follows a decrease in population of 52 or 0.18% during the previous one-year period.

Approximately 82% of Vernon's labor force is employed outside the town. On a regional basis, our residents' income is derived from major insurance firms, defense industries, financial institutions and capital goods producers. The town's unemployment rate at June 30, 2009 was 7.3%, an increase of 1.8% from June 30, 2008 unemployment rate of 5.5%. In recent history, the unemployment rate was 4.3% in 2007, 4.2% in 2006, and 4.9% in 2005. The increase in the unemployment rate is influenced by the recent downturn in the overall economy, however, Vernon's unemployment rate compares favorably to that of the State of Connecticut, 7.9%, and for the nation, 9.5%. The Town of Vernon generally shares the same economic health as the State of Connecticut and the Hartford region, therefore experiencing the economic effect of a slowdown in the financial and insurance sector; and business investment in new construction. Looking forward, a continuation of policies directed to the financial sector, but are not labor driven, coupled with a decline in federal stimulus funding to the state and municipalities, raises concern about the future employment trend. Locally, the composure of our community's resources indicates that any unemployment increase in the near future will be modest.

Vernon completed a town wide revaluation of property as of October 1, 2006, which was effective for the 2007-08 fiscal year. Our tax base for the October 1, 2008 grand list grew by 11.08%, inclusive of a 13.12% increase in the real estate portion. The real growth in the real estate portion, discounting revaluation and the phase-in, is approximately 1.32%.

For the October 1, 2009 grand list, the assessor projects new real growth in the real estate list of 0.28% or \$5,333,000. The increase would provide \$148,827 more in tax revenue for programs and services. Property taxes have been supported by strong collection rates, averaging 98.1 % over the past ten years. The number of building permits decreased from 1,725 to 1,466, and the value of those permits decreased from \$35,646,479 to \$21,322,371.

The 2009-2010 operating budget was approved by the Town Council and sent to the annual Town Meeting for adoption. The budget was instead petitioned to a referendum vote, held on May 9, 2009, and the voters adopted the budget. As a result of revaluation and year three of a three-year phase-in, the mil rate, decreased by 1.86 mils, from 30.28 to 28.42. We will continue to provide the voters with information to make knowledgeable decisions, as we have a responsibility to educate our residents on the programs and services presently provided, as well as those proposed.

In October 2008, the Planning and Zoning Commission adopted zoning regulations for a comprehensive multi-family development zone. It is anticipated that once market conditions improve with a boost in lending, applications will be submitted to rezone certain areas in town for developments of this type.

The local economic base serves the region as a commercial, governmental, legal, and medical center. Local employment in manufacturing has been replaced by employment in these service areas. This shift is revealed in the additions to the tax base as planned development and new construction are related to retail commerce and professional services.

The economic areas for new development are downtown Rockville, Vernon Circle, Lafayette Square, the I-84 corridor, and the Gerber Farm area.

#### **Rockville Section:**

The former Rockville mills section has made a transition from being primarily an industrial and commercial center to being a professional and governmental center. It is the site of local government, education, and State of Connecticut administrative offices. The initial development of downtown Rockville occurred over one hundred years ago, creating its distinctive Victorian urban character and invaluable architecture. However, this also creates the need for reinvestment and modernization. In addition to improvements to municipal and state buildings, the following recent advancements have been made.

The Town of Vernon has actively supported the redevelopment of the Village Street area adjacent to Rockville General Hospital in supporting the Vernon Nonprofit Housing Corporation's (VNHC) rehabilitation of eleven structures on the street, by providing Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to assist first time homebuyers. The houses controlled by VNHC have received environmental remediation and new roofs. The VNHC has renovated and sold four units on Village Street, is currently renovating eight others and have erected an additional three units on vacant lots. To further this effort to reinforce the neighborhood rehabilitation activities, Village Street has recently been reconstructed.

The Rockville Public Library at 52 Union Street received approval in April 2009 for a new addition to the existing facility. In August 2009, a special permit was issued to convert an existing vacant residential property to a professional medical office at 94 Union St. This work is nearing completion and has made a significant visual improvement to this property. At One Ellington Avenue, an existing abandoned mansion with guesthouse is being converted to apartment buildings. The guesthouse is currently under construction and restoration for the Main House will follow afterwards. This property had been for sale for a lengthy period of time.

**Vernon Circle / Route 30 – Hartford Turnpike / Route 83 – Talcottville Road:**

The Vernon Circle area continues to make a positive adjustment to the regional shopping center development in the Buckland Hills section of Manchester, and Evergreen Park in South Windsor, just one highway exit west on I-84. The Tri-City Plaza has a very successful retail mix of value-oriented stores.

The K-Mart Plaza, located on Pitkin Road and Route 30, and the Goodyear Tire Plaza, 378 Kelly Road, although both experience transition phases of businesses closing and new businesses opening, remain enduring and attractive developments in promising locations. Dunkin Donuts, and the Sunoco and Citgo service stations, all on Talcottville Road, as well as Johnnie's Mobil on West Street, have all been recently renovated.

In the Talcottville section of Vernon, 167 Hartford Turnpike, a Volkswagen dealership has been constructed. The Colony Banquet Hall and Restaurant closed in December 2007. Presently, plans have been approved for a 120-room Marriot Spring Hill Suite Hotel in place of the Colony Restaurant. Completion of the recent development has strengthened the Vernon Circle area overall. There is a clear pattern that as the vacancies in Vernon Circle become occupied, the available space on the periphery is being filled and is becoming more attractive for extended development.

Also on Route 83, three vacant parcels at 360 Talcottville Road were combined into two parcels to construct the 16,000 square foot Aldi's Supermarket. This market specializes in produce and frozen foods. Additional development on the site was approved including an 8,400 square foot day care facility and a 4,000 square foot retail building, to establish the "The Shoppes at Vernon Valley". The 35-acre parcel located at 243 Talcottville Road sold for \$3,400,000. Zoned for commercial use, this parcel will be developed by Boston / Manchester II, LLC; however, for the present, the parcel has been classified, for assessment purposes, as Open Space land in the 2009 grand list. Additional development was also approved along Hockanum Boulevard including a new 12,000 square foot industrial building and support structures.

The new owners of the former Heartland Plaza at 425 Talcottville Road have moved ahead with restoration improvements and are making a remarkable visual change to the property. This highly visible and long time vacant and blighted commercial structure underwent a vibrant and aesthetically pleasing overhaul. This property will soon be a lively commercial destination along Route 83.

A new gas station / convenience store is currently under construction at 229 Talcottville Road, the site of an existing gas station, with attached repair areas. This new facility will include new underground gas storage tanks that will provide improved environmental protections. The new owners of the former Gottier Furniture Store at 48 Windsor Avenue received approval in May 2009 for an outdoor lawn and garden merchandise display for their newly opened "Lots & More" store. A new Sovereign Bank was constructed at 560 Talcottville Road. This bank replaced an existing vacant building property.



**Lafayette Square:**

The Lafayette Square commercial area has been experiencing steady development. The 28,000 square foot complex at 30 Lafayette Square was purchased, and the new owners rejuvenated the property, both interior and exterior, inclusive of architectural improvements to the building façade. Two proposals for assisted living elderly facilities of approximately 100 units each have been approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC), but no action has occurred. At 75 Hyde Avenue, construction is ongoing for the 76 private condominiums for the new Bridlewood development. As part of this approval, the developer has offered to construct sidewalks from the new development along Route 30 to the Northeast School to safely accommodate schoolchildren.

**I-84 Corridor:**

The I-84 corridor offers potential for office park development around the Exit #66 interchange and retail development around the Exit #67 interchange. A proposal to replace the New England Sportplex athletic fields with a 132,973 square foot Home Depot and Garden Center was advanced by a negotiated agreement with the Planning and Zoning Commission. The agreement stipulates a smaller building and parking lot; sewer hookup; the widening of the road; and environmental concessions. The Town is considering a Tax Increment Financing District that would bring water and sewer lines up to the sites.

**Gerber Farm:**

With co-investments from the Town of Vernon, a bridge and access road for the new Hockanum Boulevard was constructed. The bridge and road provides access to the approximately 275-acre Gerber Farm area for development. The PZC adopted the area as a Mixed Use Development (MUD) district. This allows for mixed-use development based upon a comprehensive plan and an economic fiscal impact analysis that demonstrates net positive tax revenue for the Town. Gardner L. Chapman constructed a 424-luxury rental unit complex, the Mansions at Hockanum Crossing, and three industrial buildings amounting to 64,000 square feet. Subsequently, the construction of Mansion 2 occurred, a 270-luxury apartment complex. The rental project total assessment is estimated at \$42,130,000.

**Mill Properties:**

Industrial development has proven to be the most difficult economic challenge for municipalities in Connecticut as manufacturers leave the state and available employment declines. The decline of industry in Vernon relates to the lack of industrial land and the obsolescence of existing facilities, as well as to the general diminishing of manufacturing employment. With only 8.3% of the town zoned for commercial and industrial use, the town is aggressively pursuing the availability of large parcels of land for industrial development while facing the additional task of addressing the redevelopment of older mill properties.

The second round of the stimulus package being crafted in Washington D.C., will be most effective with a concentration of public infrastructure, local and state aid, and a philosophy of “bottom to top” recovery. The seriousness of a well-planned economic recovery package is understood by the nation, inclusive of stabilizing energy prices, food, and health care costs. If the federal government responds accordingly, then cautious optimism of a strengthened economy at the end of the next twelve months can be realized. The creation of jobs through clean energy, infrastructure, small business capital, technology, infrastructure investment, and local and state aid, needs to be packaged in a multi-year plan to accomplish steady progress. For three decades, the erosion of federal domestic spending has placed a serious burden on the budgets of state and municipal governments, and the spending pressures of global terrorist security and military operations, has exacerbated the situation. The continuation of stimulus funding is an opportunity to reverse that trend.

For the Town of Vernon, successful and continued pursuit of the economic development cited in this section enables the town to take advantage of any gradual business expansion and demand for developmental sites, thus greeting the future with a tax base strengthened by those objectives.

### **Major Initiatives**

#### **General Government:**

The town completed extensive renovations to the third floor of the Town Hall during the fiscal year at a cost of \$1,864,873. These improvements included an expanded Town Council Chambers and administrative office. Funding was primarily supported by three state grants. The Town is currently seeking grant funding for renovations to its second floor finance office and mezzanine.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements to town facilities continued, and will proceed with available funds of \$105,272. There were renovations to the Town Clerk's office vault. For the future, there is an allocation of \$19,745 for current modifications; and \$160,000 is available major improvements to increase storage space by expanding the vault.

A \$60,000 appropriation to provide for the acquisition and development of a Geographical Information System (GIS) has been nearly completely expended and complemented by a \$23,000 recent appropriation to purchase compatible equipment.

#### **Community Development:**

In its continue effort to support and initiate interest in economic development in town, \$105,881 was appropriated to the Economic Development special revenue fund during the year to finance an update to the town's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), provide funding to its Downtown Association and for targeted advertising. Annual appropriations to this Fund commenced in 1999 and have funded several property reuse studies, retail façade improvements and the most recent POCD.

The Town received a \$125,000 state grant to conduct an engineering and architectural feasibility study to determine the most effective building improvements Amerbelle Mill, a local industrial employer. In addition, the town secured an additional \$196,000 federal grant to complement these improvements with funding for a roof replacement and additional building improvements. The \$125,000 project has been completed and the \$196,000 project commenced recently.

The Town has received grants totaling \$1,200,000 to provide funding for site demolition and remediation to the currently vacant Roosevelt Mill. These grant funds were preceded by a prior year receipt of federal Brownfield cleanup funds utilized for a site evaluation and remediation project recently completed. It is envisioned that the property will be redeveloped for future mixed use. To facilitate this project, the Town established the RMRP Corporation, a separate non-profit entity, to which property liens were assigned, and in turn, Loom City Lofts, a developer secured the liens and obtained title to the property.

The Town was awarded a \$20,000 state grant to fund a feasibility study of the Citizens Block. The town-owned Citizens Block is a primarily vacant commercial and mixed use 1879 building, adjacent to the

1867 senior center building, located next to Town Hall. This study, requiring the use of \$17,000 of Economic Development Funds commenced during the fiscal year.

The Town is in the sixth year of a new housing rehabilitation grant / loan program that utilizes funds derived from former programs that produced loan program income. Participants that meet income requirements are eligible for projects involving owner occupied housing. A total of \$10,220 was expended this past fiscal year, with \$300,938 as the available balance. In May 2006, \$250,000 of this available program income was designated by the Town Council for home ownership activities in the Village Street neighborhood. Of the \$250,000 designation, \$7,265 has been expended to date.

#### **Public Safety:**

The fire department's 154 members, the largest volunteer force in the state, enable the town to apply the savings from personnel costs to equipment needs. Although the members are not employees, the Town has recognized their commitment to protecting the lives and property of our residents, and has established a Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP). This is a non-qualified employer retirement plan that commenced on January 1, 2000. To attain normal retirement, a minimum of ten years of credited service is required, with maximum credited service of thirty years. Since inception, the Town has made its employer contribution to an investment fund set up exclusively for this program as follows:

	<b>Employer</b>
<b>Year</b>	<b>Contribution</b>
2000 through 2006	\$622,823
December 31, 2007	\$97,968
December 31, 2008	\$83,206

A fiscal year 2007/08 appropriation funded the roof replacement and bathroom renovations at the Hartford Turnpike company #1 fire station, completed during the past year at a cost of \$35,535. The fire department also utilized an additional appropriation of \$45,000 for "jaws of life" and related equipment. This equipment has already proven invaluable in recent emergency rescues.

The Town has recently received several federal grants for two police department vehicles and digital video equipment; as well as partial grant funding for a hybrid vehicle purchased during the year. In addition, Emergency Management has received federally funded equipment grants totaling \$17,500 of which \$10,600 has been utilized to date.

For the animal control facility, there is a remaining allocation of \$20,210 from a prior year \$58,000 appropriation to enclose the dog runs and expand the shelter; as well as a \$48,100 appropriation to construct an incinerator.

Recent prior year completed public safety projects include town funding for a police department evidence room and photo lab, replacement of its emergency generator and installation of digital time clocks. Recent prior year grants have funded firefighter and ambulance equipment, fire station improvements and emergency management equipment.

**Maintenance and development:**

On November 2, 2004 voters approved a public improvement bond authorization, and since then the Town has issued three general obligation bonds, \$10,300,000 on February 15, 2007, \$5,000,000 on February 1, 2008 and \$720,000 on February 12, 2009. Bond anticipation notes of \$1,400,000 were issued on February 12, 2009, and matured February 11, 2010. A new note of \$740,000 was issued on February 3, 2010, and is due June 15, 2010. The authorizations / expenditures are as follows:

	Amount	Expended	Expended		
Project	Authorized	Current Year	Cumulative		
Roads; sidewalks; and bridge reconstruction	\$ 19,103,000	\$ 2,076,893	\$ 14,665,694		
Improvements to waste treatment plant	1,295,000	-	-		
Improvements to sewer system	1,211,000	176,553	1,055,536		
Issuance costs		5,734	147,645		
Accrued note interest		21,313	690,512		
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 21,609,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,280,493</b>	<b>\$ 16,559,387</b>		

The roadway improvements include the reconstruction / repaving of 22 town roads, replacement of sidewalks, installation of a storm drainage system at the Bolton Lake shores and the renovation of three (3) bridges at Dart Hill Road, West Main Street and Bolton Road. Sidewalks have been constructed at Peterson Road at a cost of \$165,583. The sewer improvement projects have been completed and consist of relining a critical sewer line on Route 30; sewer repairs at twenty (20) various roads; and the replacement of the Dart Hill pump station equipment. The upgrade of the waste treatment plant, to meet or surpass designated nitrogen limits, is in the early stages of design and has yet to commence. As of the winter of 2010, the roadway improvement program is 85% complete. To address the rising pavement costs, the Town continues to apply for offsetting grants, and has been awarded a \$500,000 DECD CDBG grant to upgrade High Street and two \$500,000 DECD CDBG grants to upgrade Prospect Street. The efforts from the Vernon Department of Public Works to complete several road projects, has saved the Town considerable costs.

In addition to the roadway improvement expenditures incurred by the Public Bond Improvements Fund above, the town's Town Aid Road special revenue fund expended \$225,102 during the year, including \$142,555 for paving of the High Street extension. In the Town's Capital Nonrecurring Expenditure Fund, current year roadway improvement expenditures totaled an additional \$39,469. The State of Connecticut also provided most of the funding for roadway and sidewalk improvements on a portion of Vernon Avenue; the project was completed in the summer of 2009.

Design work, funded by federal and state grants, continued for the **River Street and Spring Street Bridges**. A \$1,950,000 80% federal / 20% state grant will fund reconstruction of the Spring Street Bridge. Reconstruction has started with \$289,363 incurred to date. The \$2,220,000 River Street Bridge 80% federal / 20% state grant funded reconstruction project commenced in the Fall of 2009.

The **Bolton Road Bridge** reconstruction, completed at \$986,754, was partially grant funded, while funding of \$1,182,000 for the **Phoenix Street Bridge** was approved by referendum vote in November 2008. Of this amount, \$44,000 of local funding is available, and it is anticipated state and federal grants

will fund the remainder, avoiding the need to issue debt. Redesign costs of \$13,497 this bridge were incurred during the year, with reconstruction anticipated for 2010.

Completed design costs of the **Vernon Avenue Bridge** reconstruction project totaled \$144,227, funded partially by an 80% federal grant. Reconstruction commenced during the fiscal year, with costs incurred of \$1,188,036. A \$1,048,800 federal grant and \$262,200 local match will fund this estimated \$1,311,000 project.

Design costs, estimated at \$240,000, for the **West Main Street Bridge** are 80% federally funded and 20% locally funded through the Public Bond Improvements Fund. \$39,293 has been expended to date. The reconstruction costs are estimated at \$2,160,000; there is an 80% federal grant and the \$845,000 authorization included in the Public Bond Improvements Fund for design and reconstruction costs will cover the local portion. Construction is anticipated for 2011.

The estimated cost for the replacement of the **Main Street Bridge** over the Tankerhoosen River is \$3,247,000. Funding for the replacement will be by an 80% federal grant, with the remaining 20% locally funded. Appropriated local funds currently total \$250,000, with the remaining sources for the local appropriation to be identified, as a November 2008 referendum to authorize such funding was unsuccessful.

During the fiscal year, \$69,080 was appropriated for eleven GPS chemical control units for use in snow / ice removal. The FY 2010 budget includes \$25,120 to fund the remaining four units needed for the public works trucks. There are several appropriations available in the Town Capital Nonrecurring Fund including \$25,000 for sidewalk renovations and \$40,000 for design of the Dart Hill Road bridge reconstruction project.

The Town continues to address major *rolling stock* demands in an effort to replace equipment and vehicles that have met their useful life. Besides being better equipped to serve the residents of Vernon, a favorable result of this effort is the reduction to overall maintenance budgets for the subsequent year. In fiscal year 2008-2009, the Town purchased two police cruisers (\$46,388); a fire department vehicle (\$33,871); two trailers for public works (\$21,553); two hybrid vehicles (\$51,544); and a dump truck (\$33,535) for parks maintenance. In addition, the cemetery fund purchased a new turf mower (\$9,350). Also, debt service payments of \$95,147 and \$86,775, respectively, were paid for the third of five lease purchase payments to acquire three (3) new dump trucks and one (1) refuse packer and for the first of five lease purchase payments to acquire a sweeper, vac-all and a recycling truck. The cost of these items was incorporated into lease purchase agreements of \$476,280 and \$470,000, respectively.

The ambulance services account is in the Special Revenue Fund and a reserve to periodically replace each of the three ambulances is maintained. In the year ended June 30, 2004, a new ambulance was purchased in the amount of \$111,744. In subsequent years, \$30,000 per year of ambulance fees collected will be reserved for this purpose. Cumulative reserves were utilized to offset the \$285,877 purchase of two ambulances in the 2008/09 fiscal year.

**Bolton Lakes Wastewater Disposal:** The Town of Vernon and the neighboring Town of Bolton entered into a consent order with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP) on October 14, 1999, requiring the towns to take the necessary steps to address wastewater disposal alternatives for the Bolton Lakes area. The design and construction costs of a sewer system are estimated to be \$21,959,000, with 29% or \$6,368,000 attributable to Vernon and the remainder to Bolton. Federal and

state grants are estimated to offset approximately 52% of the costs, reducing Vernon's share to \$3,066,750, prior to the levy of assessments. Voters in both towns approved a special referendum held on September 27, 2005, regarding ordinances that guarantee funding for the project. Plans and funding applications are now complete. Construction bids were received in April 2009; and construction commenced in the Bolton area in the Spring of 2009. Construction will be phased in over a five-year period in order to maximize grant-funding sources.

### **Parks and Recreation:**

Recreation programs remain very popular with our residents as demand and participation increases. The town has 569 acres dedicated to recreation, which consist of 22 parks, 35 miles of trails, two pools, two beaches on lakes providing swimming, a camp, boat launch, picnic areas, and fishing and ice skating. Additionally, the Town has a teen center, numerous playgrounds, baseball and softball diamonds, soccer fields, and tennis and basketball courts. The department is also responsible for maintaining the athletic fields throughout the public school system, which includes a lighted football field and track.

Improvements to Rockville Central Park were completed during the fiscal year at a cost of \$715,112. The project was funded by federal and state grants. In addition, a \$90,800 federal grant to fund design enhancements in the Talcottville section of town continued, as did park improvements at Valley Falls Park. Renovations to Horowitz Pool continued to a cumulative cost of \$61,233 to date. A \$300,000 state grant to fund renovations at the Community Arts Center commenced during the fiscal year with costs incurred of \$39,309. In addition, a \$283,000 state funded grant to fund restoration of the Vernon Historical Society Grange commenced. Two federal grants were awarded totaling \$51,870 for the Rockville Downtown and Train Depot; and Mill rails-to-trails projects. The Town Council approved \$4,800 from the Downstream Fund during the year to fund a Baseline Aquatic Study of the Dobsonville, Talcottville, Valley Falls and Eckers Ponds and Walkers Reservoir. Recent prior years' park improvements include replacement of restrooms at Valley Falls Park, renovations to Valley Falls Barn, trail improvements, improvements at Talcott Park, and the replacement of the filter system at Community Pool. The FY 2010 budget includes \$21,000 to sandblast and paint the Community Pool.

### **Education:**

On March 29, 2005, voters approved three referenda questions for the renovations to school buildings and facilities. The authorizations and expenditures are as follows:

Project	Amount Authorized	Expended Current Year	Expended Cumulative
<b>Rockville High School - Additions &amp; renovations</b>	<b>\$ 34,657,000</b>	<b>\$ 7,619,721</b>	<b>\$ 27,076,024</b>
<b>Vernon Center Middle School - Renovations</b>	<b>11,519,000</b>	<b>1,506,017</b>	<b>10,696,662</b>
Center Road School	4,420,600	838,096	1,520,867
Lake Street School	5,828,800	3,345,488	4,930,146
Maple Street School	3,743,200	242,043	729,210
Northeast School	3,556,000	715,989	1,202,348
Skinner Road School	4,597,400	2,974,235	3,985,856
<b>Total Elementary Schools - Additions and renovation</b>	<b>22,146,000</b>	<b>8,115,851</b>	<b>12,368,427</b>
Issuance costs		37,060	219,169
Accrued note interest		221,316	985,528
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 68,322,000</b>	<b>\$ 17,499,965</b>	<b>\$ 51,345,810</b>

A school building commission that was formed as of December 6, 2005, has oversight of the projects, and works closely with the architect, a construction management firm, and the administration. The recorded state progress payment reimbursements received as of June 30, 2009, is \$20,598,513.

In addition to the school bond improvement authorization, a \$333,000 prior year appropriation in the Education Capital Nonrecurring Expenditure Fund to repair and re-point the Board of Education administration building continued during the year. Project costs to date are \$48,824. Current available resources in this Fund for future education projects total \$123,790. The Town Capital Nonrecurring Fund provided \$39,625 to fund the recently completed Lake Street School ADA playscape project.

### ***Long-Term Financial Planning***

The Town issued \$10,875,000 in long-term debt during the fiscal year and intends to permanently finance \$3,710,000 of short-term outstanding debt in June 2010. We anticipate that during fiscal year 2011, the final general obligation bond will be issued to fund and complete the remaining public and school bond improvement projects, which commenced in fiscal year 2005.

We will continue to revise the six-year capital improvement plan to address community demands, understanding that the budgetary constraints imposed by varied economic factors requires the diligent pursuit of grants and alternative resources to fund capital needs.

### **Relevant Financial Policies**

The Town's financial policies have been applied consistently with the prior year and had no notable current year effect on the financial statements. There were no developments at the State level that impacted the current year financial statements.



## OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements. The statement of net assets and the statement of activities (Exhibits A & B), respectively) provide information about the activities of the Town as a whole and present a longer-term view of the Town's finances. Fund financial statements are presented in Exhibits C to J. For governmental activities, these statements tell how these services were financed in the short term as well as what remains for future spending. Fund financial statements also report the Town's operations in more detail than the government-wide statements by providing information about the Town's most significant funds. The remaining statements provide financial information about activities for which the Town acts solely as a trustee or agent for the benefit of those outside of the government.

### ***Government-Wide Financial Statements***

The analysis of the Town as a whole begins with Exhibit A and B, found in the Basic Financial Statements section of this report. The statement of net assets and the statement of activities report information about the Town as a whole and about its activities for the current period. These statements include all assets and liabilities using the accrual basis of accounting, which is similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are taken into account regardless of when cash is received or paid.

These two statements report the Town's net assets and changes in them. The Town's net assets, the difference between assets and liabilities, are one way to measure the Town's financial health, or financial position. Over time, increases or decreases in the Town's net assets are one indicator of whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating. The reader needs to consider other non-financial factors, however, such as changes in the Town's property tax base and the condition of the Town's capital assets, to assess the overall health of the Town.

In the statement of net assets and the statement of activities, we divide the Town into two types of activities:

- *Governmental activities* — Most of the Town's basic services are reported here, including education, public safety, maintenance and development of streets and buildings, sanitation, human services, recreation, public improvements, community planning and development, and general administration. Property taxes, charges for services, and state and federal grants finance most of these activities.
- *Business - type activities* — The Town charges a fee to customers to help it cover all or most of the cost of certain services it provides. The Town's operation of the wastewater treatment facility and rentals at Center 375 are reported here.

### ***Fund Financial Statements***

The fund financial statements begin with Exhibit C and provide detailed information about the most significant funds — not the Town as a whole. Some funds are required to be established by Charter. However, the Town Council establishes many other funds to help control and manage financial activities for particular purposes (like the Ambulance Services Fund, Sewer Assessments Fund, and Cemetery Operations) or to show that it is meeting legal responsibilities for using funds for those purposes, and

other money (like grants received for education from the State and Federal governments and accounted for in the Special Revenue Fund). The Town's funds are divided into three categories; governmental, proprietary and fiduciary.

- *Governmental funds (Exhibits C, D and E)* — Most of the Town's basic services are reported in governmental funds, which focus on how money flows into and out of those funds and the balances left at year-end that are available for spending. These funds are reported using an accounting method called modified accrual accounting, which measures cash and all other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the Town's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps you determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the Town's programs. The relationship (or differences) between governmental activities (reported in the statement of net assets and the statement of activities) and governmental funds is described in a reconciliation at the bottom of the fund financial statements.
- *Proprietary funds (Exhibits F, G and H)* — When the Town charges customers for the services it provides, whether to outside customers or to other units of the Town, these services are generally reported in proprietary funds. Proprietary funds are reported in the same way that all activities are reported in the statement of net assets and the statement of activities. In fact the Town's enterprise funds (a component of proprietary funds) are the same as the business-type activities reported in the government-wide statements, but provide more detail and additional information, such as cash flows, for proprietary funds. Internal service funds (the other component of proprietary funds) are used to report activities that provide supplies and services for the Town is other programs and activities — such as the Town's Data Processing Internal Service Fund.
- *Fiduciary funds (Exhibits I and J)* — The Town is the trustee, or fiduciary, for its employees' pension plans. It is also responsible for other assets that, because of a trust arrangement, can be used only for the trust beneficiaries. All of the Town's fiduciary activities are reported in separate statements of fiduciary net assets and changes in fiduciary net assets. These activities are excluded from the Town's other financial statements because the Town cannot use these assets to finance its operations. The Town is responsible for ensuring that the assets reported in these funds are used for their intended purposes.

### ***Supplementary Schedules***

The schedules that follow the exhibits provide additional detail of revenue and expenditures for the General Fund.

### **CONTACTING THE TOWN'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

The financial section of the annual report is designed to provide citizens, taxpayers, customers, investors, and creditors with a general overview of the Town's finances and to show the Town's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this section or need additional financial information, contact the Finance Department, Town of Vernon, 14 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut 06066.

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT

STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS

June 30, 2009

	GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES	BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES	TOTAL
<u>ASSETS</u>			
Current Assets:			
Cash	\$ 2,416,998	\$ 186,926	\$ 2,603,924
Investments	22,032,987	3,679,697	25,712,684
Receivables (net):			
Property taxes	841,223		841,223
Intergovernmental	5,584,780		5,584,780
Other	2,593,731	1,083,891	3,677,622
Internal balances	247,095	(247,095)	-
Other assets	33,984		33,984
Total current assets	33,750,798	4,703,419	38,454,217
Noncurrent assets:			
Restricted assets:			
Cash	108,392		108,392
Investments	1,486,477		1,486,477
Total Restricted assets	1,594,869	-	1,594,869
Receivables (net):			
Property taxes	551,489		551,489
Intergovernmental	556,046		556,046
Total Receivables (net):	1,107,535	-	1,107,535
Capital assets (net of accumulated depreciation):			
Land	8,381,925		8,381,925
Construction in progress	69,312,690		69,312,690
Land improvements	2,028,314	1,332,185	3,360,499
Buildings and improvements	25,277,904	1,626,376	26,904,280
Machinery and equipment	10,478,127	1,582,303	12,060,430
Infrastructure	27,955,852	6,152,748	34,108,600
Total capital assets (net of accum. depreciation)	143,434,812	10,693,612	154,128,424
Total noncurrent assets	146,137,216	10,693,612	156,830,828
TOTAL ASSETS	179,888,014	15,397,031	195,285,045

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT

## STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS

June 30, 2009

	GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES	BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES	TOTAL
<u>LIABILITIES</u>			
Current liabilities:			
Accounts payable	4,605,065	328,278	4,933,343
Accrued payroll and related liabilities	328,146		328,146
Accrued interest payable	738,149		738,149
Unearned revenue	14,467		14,467
Bond anticipation notes	3,710,000		3,710,000
Bond and notes payable	2,636,366		2,636,366
Capital lease payable	310,258		310,258
Compensated absences	930,045	131,190	1,061,235
Retirement obligations	786,338		786,338
Claims payable and other	586,200		586,200
Total current liabilities	14,645,034	459,468	15,104,502
Noncurrent liabilities:			
Bonds and notes payable and related liabilities	55,050,277		55,050,277
Capital lease payable	653,619		653,619
Compensated absences	3,136,348	427,453	3,563,801
Retirement obligations	3,000,563		3,000,563
Claims payable and other	771,304		771,304
Net OPEB obligation	528,000		528,000
Total Noncurrent liabilities	63,140,111	427,453	63,567,564
TOTAL LIABILITIES	77,785,145	886,921	78,672,066
<u>NET ASSETS</u>			
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	\$ 81,074,292	\$ 10,693,612	91,767,904
Restricted for:			-
Commitments	8,503,748		8,503,748
Debt Service	731,241		731,241
Endowments:			-
Nonexpendable	1,591,346		1,591,346
Unrestricted	10,202,242	3,816,498	14,018,740
TOTAL NET ASSETS	102,102,869	14,510,110	116,612,979

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUTSTATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2009

PROGRAM REVENUES					NET (EXPENSE) REVENUE AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS		
	EXPENSES	CHARGES FOR SERVICES	OPERATING GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	CAPITAL GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES	BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES	TOTAL
Governmental Activities:							
General government	\$ 5,543,645	\$ 725,190	\$ 457,226	\$ 1,035,513	\$ (3,325,716)		\$ (3,325,716)
Community development	874,382	7,489	567,544	-	(299,349)		(299,349)
Public safety	12,568,421	1,181,165	44,769	-	(11,342,487)		(11,342,487)
Maintenance and development	10,285,117	561,824	358,733	313,182	(9,051,378)		(9,051,378)
Human services	1,462,640		4,658		(1,457,982)		(1,457,982)
Parks, recreation and culture	2,332,424	631,474	76,873		(1,624,077)		(1,624,077)
Education	58,265,100	1,247,574	26,711,277	2,422,044	(27,884,205)		(27,884,205)
Interest on long-term debt	2,098,304	-	357,752	-	(1,740,552)		(1,740,552)
Total general government activities	93,430,033	4,354,716	28,578,832	3,770,739	(56,725,746)	-	(56,725,746)
Business-type activities:							
Sewer user	5,709,836	5,658,586				(51,250)	(51,250)
Center 375 (building rental)	245,220	168,218				(77,002)	(77,002)
Total business-type activities	5,955,056	5,826,804	-	-	-	(128,252)	(128,252)
Total	\$ 99,385,089	\$ 10,181,520	\$ 28,578,832	\$ 3,770,739	(56,725,746)	(128,252)	(56,853,998)
General revenues:							
Property taxes					51,722,860		51,722,860
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs					1,606,039	75,000	1,681,039
Investment income					212,312	38,771	251,083
Miscellaneous					966,540		966,540
Total general revenues					54,507,751	113,771	54,621,522
Change in net assets					(2,217,995)	(14,481)	(2,232,476)
Net assets at Beginning of Year, as Restated					104,320,864	14,524,591	118,845,455
Net assets at End of Year					#####	\$ 14,510,110	#####

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUTGOVERNMENTAL FUNDSBALANCE SHEET  
June 30, 2009

	GENERAL	DEBT SERVICE	PUBLIC BOND IMPROVEMENTS	SCHOOL BOND IMPROVEMENTS	NON-MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS	TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
<u>ASSETS</u>						
Cash	\$ 697,928	\$ -	-	\$ 2,907	\$ 1,496,262	\$ 2,197,097
Investments	10,364,088	9,826	2,214,522	3,455,416	7,098,844	23,142,696
Receivables (net):						-
Taxes	1,373,298					1,373,298
Grants and other receivables	966,108			3,177,710	1,997,008	6,140,826
Other		2,489,677			104,054	2,593,731
Due from other funds	1,954,903		740,000		469,431	3,164,334
Inventories					33,984	33,984
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 15,356,325</u>	<u>\$ 2,499,503</u>	<u>\$ 2,954,522</u>	<u>\$ 6,636,033</u>	<u>\$ 11,199,583</u>	<u>\$ 38,645,966</u>
<u>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</u>						
Liabilities:						
Accounts and other payables	\$ 1,817,271	\$ -	\$ 187,969	\$ 1,536,006	\$ 1,051,574	\$ 4,592,820
Accrued wages and benefits	277,649				50,497	328,146
Accrued interest payable	-		7,933	13,023		20,956
Due to other funds	1,209,431	9,826	14,254	528,085	1,154,656	2,916,252
Bond anticipation note payable	-		1,400,000	2,310,000		3,710,000
Deferred revenue	2,146,305	2,489,677			664,380	5,300,362
Total liabilities	<u>5,450,656</u>	<u>2,499,503</u>	<u>1,610,156</u>	<u>4,387,114</u>	<u>2,921,107</u>	<u>16,868,536</u>
Fund balances:						
Reserved	1,538,649		1,375,232	5,670,123	4,844,907	13,428,911
Unreserved:						-
Designated	322,000				3,449,651	3,771,651
Unreserved, reported in:						-
General Fund	8,045,020					8,045,020
Special Revenue Funds	-				1,351,580	1,351,580
Capital Project Funds	-		(30,866)	(3,421,204)	(1,367,662)	(4,819,732)
Total fund balances (deficit)	<u>9,905,669</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,344,366</u>	<u>2,248,919</u>	<u>8,278,476</u>	<u>21,777,430</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 15,356,325</u>	<u>\$ 2,499,503</u>	<u>\$ 2,954,522</u>	<u>\$ 6,636,033</u>	<u>\$ 11,199,583</u>	<u>\$ 38,645,966</u>

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT  
RECONCILIATION OF FUND BALANCE  
TO NET ASSETS OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

JUNE 30, 2009

---

AMOUNTS REPORTED FOR GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES IN THE STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS (EXHIBIT A) ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCE SHEET, THE DETAILS OF THIS DIFFERENCE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

TOTAL FUND BALANCE (EXHIBIT C, PAGE 1)	\$	21,777,430
--	----	------------

CAPITAL ASSETS USED IN GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES ARE NOT FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND, THEREFORE, ARE NOT REPORTED IN THE FUNDS:

Beginning capital assets		127,399,878
Current capital asset additions		21,922,036
Depreciation expense		(3,998,010)
Disposal and sale of capital assets		(2,223,019)

OTHER LONG-TERM ASSETS ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO PAY FOR CURRENT PERIOD EXPENDITURES AND, THEREFORE, ARE DEFERRED IN THE FUNDS:

Property tax and sewer assessment interest and lien accrual		568,819
Property tax, sewer assessment, and community development block grant receivable - accrual basis change		5,684,081
School building grant receivable		(398,186)
Allowance for doubtful accounts		(549,405)

INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS ARE USED BY MANAGEMENT TO CHARGE THE COST OF MEDICAL INSURANCE PREMIUMS TO INDIVIDUAL DEPARTMENTS:

The assets and liabilities of the internal service funds are included in governmental activities in the statement of net assets		(332,386)
---	--	-----------

SOME LIABILITIES, INCLUDING BONDS PAYABLE, ARE NOT DUE AND PAYABLE IN THE CURRENT PERIOD AND, THEREFORE, ARE NOT REPORTED IN THE FUNDS:

Bonds and notes payable		(45,990,000)
Accrued interest payable		(717,193)
State of Connecticut Clean Water Fund Notes		(11,696,643)
Compensated absences		(4,051,803)
Capital leases		(963,877)
Net OPEB liability		(528,000)
Retirement obligations		(3,800,853)

NET ASSETS OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES



TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUTGOVERNMENTAL FUNDSSTATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2009

	GENERAL	DEBT SERVICE	PUBLIC BOND IMPROVEMENTS	SCHOOL BOND IMPROVEMENTS	NON-MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS	TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
Revenues:						
Property taxes	\$ 52,186,924	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 52,186,924
Intergovernmental	24,670,932		-	1,988,884.00	6,576,720.00	33,236,536
Assessments			-	-	72,351	72,351
Charges for services	1,838,020		-	-	2,525,395	4,363,415
Gifts and contributions		357,752	-	-	1,096,456	1,454,208
Income on investments	199,312	9,826	24,155	92,684	(122,509)	203,468
Other	429,986		1,550	18,120	444,533	894,189
Total revenues	<u>79,325,174</u>	<u>367,578</u>	<u>25,705</u>	<u>2,099,688</u>	<u>10,592,946</u>	<u>92,411,091</u>
Expenditures:						
Current:						
General government	3,026,387				12,458	3,038,845
Community development	217,126				626,777	843,903
Public safety	7,381,590				967,328	8,348,918
Maintenance and development	5,681,841				945,241	6,627,082
Human services	899,092				87,754	986,846
Parks, recreation and culture	1,305,429				649,219	1,954,648
Town wide	6,167,528				493,517	6,661,045
Education	49,284,455				5,887,618	55,172,073
Debt service	3,254,029	1,662,040	21,313	221,316		5,158,698
Capital outlay	117,423		2,259,180	17,278,648	2,323,751	21,979,002
Total expenditures	<u>77,334,900</u>	<u>1,662,040</u>	<u>2,280,493</u>	<u>17,499,964</u>	<u>11,993,663</u>	<u>110,771,060</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	<u>1,990,274</u>	<u>(1,294,462)</u>	<u>(2,254,788)</u>	<u>(15,400,276)</u>	<u>(1,400,717)</u>	<u>(18,359,969)</u>
Other financing sources (uses):						
Bond proceeds			720,000	10,155,000		10,875,000
Bond premium and accrued interest			782	11,032		11,814
Bond anticipation note premium			5,808	9,583		15,391
Transfers in	259,876	1,304,288			566,034	2,130,198
Transfers out	(1,870,322)	(9,826)			(250,050)	(2,130,198)
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(1,610,446)</u>	<u>1,294,462</u>	<u>726,590</u>	<u>10,175,615</u>	<u>315,984</u>	<u>10,902,205</u>
Net change in Fund Balances	379,828	-	(1,528,198)	(5,224,661)	(1,084,733)	(7,457,764)
Fund Balances at July 1, 2008 (as restated)	<u>9,525,841</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,872,564</u>	<u>7,473,580</u>	<u>9,363,209</u>	<u>29,235,194</u>
Fund Balances at June 30, 2009	<u>\$ 9,905,669</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,344,366</u>	<u>\$ 2,248,919</u>	<u>\$ 8,278,476</u>	<u>\$ 21,777,430</u>

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT

RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES  
IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2009

## AMOUNTS REPORTED FOR GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES IN THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

(EXHIBIT B) ARE DUE TO:

NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES - TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS (EXHIBIT D) \$ (7,457,764)

Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the Statement of Activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which capital outlays exceeded depreciation in the current period:

Capital outlay	21,922,036
Depreciation expense	(3,998,010)
Total	17,924,026

The net effect of various miscellaneous transactions involving capital assets (i.e., sales, trade-ins and donations) is to increase net assets. In the Statement of Activities, only the *loss* on the sale of capital assets is reported. However, in the governmental funds, the proceeds from the sale increase financial resources. Thus, the change in net assets differs from the change in fund balance by the cost of the capital assets sold

(2,223,019)

Revenues in the Statement of Activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the funds, and revenues recognized in the Fund Financial Statements are not recognized in the Statement of Activities:

School building grant receipts	(398,186)
Change in property tax, sewer assessment, and community development block grants receivable - accrual basis change	(286,525)
Change in property tax and sewer assessment interest and lien revenue	26,219
Change in property tax and sewer assessment allowance for doubtful accounts	(549,405)
Total	(1,207,897)

The issuance of long-term debt (e.g., bonds, leases) provides current financial resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of the principal of long-term debt consumes the current financial resources of governmental funds. Neither transactions, however, has any effect on net assets. Also, governmental funds report the effect issuance costs, premiums, discounts, and similar items when debt is first issued, whereas these amounts are deferred and amortized in the Statement of Activities. The details of these differences in the treatment of long-term debt and related items are as follows:

Debt issued or incurred:	
General obligation bond	(10,875,000)
Net OPEB obligation	(528,000)
Principal repayments:	
General obligation bonds	2,847,797
Deferred charges	(9,443)
Capital lease payable	298,580

Total (8,266,066)

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT

RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES  
IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2009

---

Some expenses reported in the Statement of Activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in the governmental funds:

Compensated absences	\$	48,913
Retirement obligations		375,463
Accrued interest payable		<u>(103,745)</u>

Total		<u>320,631</u>
-------	--	----------------

Internal service funds are used by management to charge costs of various self-insured risk premiums and Data

Processing operation to individual departments		<u>(1,304,020)</u>
--	--	--------------------

The net revenue of the activities of the Internal Service Fund is reported with governmental activities		<u>(3,886)</u>
---	--	----------------

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES (EXHIBIT B)	\$	<u><u>(2,217,995)</u></u>
---	----	---------------------------

**TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT**  
**STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS - PROPRIETARY FUNDS**  
**JUNE 30, 2009**

	<b>BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES</b>			<b>GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES</b>
	<b>SEWER USER</b>	<b>NON-MAJOR CENTER 375</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS</b>
<b>ASSETS:</b>				
Current assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 182,107	\$ 4,819	\$ 186,926	\$ 328,293
Investments	2,367,800	1,311,897	3,679,697	376,768
Receivables (net)	1,083,270	621	1,083,891	
Total current assets	3,633,177	1,317,337	4,950,514	705,061
Capital assets (net):				
Land and land improvements	736,961	595,224	1,332,185	-
Buildings and plant	1,158,304	468,072	1,626,376	-
Machinery and equipment	1,572,819	9,484	1,582,303	333,927
Infrastructure	6,152,748		6,152,748	-
Capital assets (net)	9,620,832	1,072,780	10,693,612	333,927
Total assets	13,254,009	2,390,117	15,644,126	1,038,988
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>				
Current liabilities:				
Accounts and other payables	318,385	9,893	328,278	12,246
Claims payable			-	581,788
Due to other funds	247,095		247,095	987
Accrued compensated absences	131,190		131,190	9,658
Total current liabilities	696,670	9,893	706,563	604,679
Noncurrent liabilities:			-	
Claims payable	-	-	-	761,763
Accrued compensated absences	427,453	-	427,453	4,932
Total noncurrent liabilities	427,453	-	427,453	766,695
Total liabilities	1,124,123	9,893	1,134,016	1,371,374
<b>NET ASSETS:</b>				
Invested in capital assets	9,620,832	1,072,780	10,693,612	333,927
Unrestricted	2,509,054	1,307,444	3,816,498	(666,313)
Total net assets	\$ 12,129,886	\$ 2,380,224	\$ 14,510,110	\$ (332,386)

**TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT****PROPRIETARY FUNDS****STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND NET ASSETS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2009**

	<b>BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES</b>			<b>GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES</b>
	<b>NON-MAJOR</b>			<b>INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS</b>
	<b>SEWER USER</b>	<b>CENTER 375</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	
Operating Revenues:				
Charges for services	\$ 5,154,556	\$ 168,218	\$ 5,322,774	\$ 1,119,555
Gifts and contributions		-	-	1,877,936
Other:			-	
Insurance Reimbursement			-	1,258
Miscellaneous fees	504,030		504,030	13,479
Total operating revenues	5,658,586	168,218	5,826,804	3,012,228
Operating Expenses:				
Wages and benefits	2,140,450	17,140	2,157,590	360,800
Repairs, maintenance and rentals	289,523	26,339	315,862	166,398
Utilities	1,989,954	103,204	2,093,158	11,329
Supplies and materials	540,251	6,023	546,274	907
General and administrative	347,175	50,390	397,565	155,479
Claims incurred			-	3,541,011
Depreciation	402,483	42,124	444,607	80,324
Total operating expenses	5,709,836	245,220	5,955,056	4,316,248
Operating income (loss)	(51,250)	(77,002)	(128,252)	(1,304,020)
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses):				
Investment income	25,730	13,041	38,771	8,844
Capital contribution	75,000		75,000	
Loss on disposal of fixed assets			-	(12,730)
Net nonoperating revenues (expenses)	100,730	13,041	113,771	(3,886)
Change in net assets	49,480	(63,961)	(14,481)	(1,307,906)
Net Assets at July 1, 2008	12,080,406	2,444,185	14,524,591	975,520
Net Assets at June 30, 2009	\$ 12,129,886	\$ 2,380,224	\$ 14,510,110	\$ (332,386)

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUTFIDUCIARY FUNDS

## STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS

JUNE 30, 2009

	PENSION TRUST FUNDS	PRIVATE PURPOSE TRUST FUND	AGENCY FUND
	DECEMBER 31, 2008	JUNE 30, 2009	JUNE 30, 2009
<b>ASSETS:</b>			
Cash	\$ -	\$ 252,408	\$ 483,650
Investments, at fair value (pooled):			
Fixed income	18,377,162	133,877	136,216
Equity	12,242,343		
Bond	3,261,312		
Total investments	33,880,817	133,877	136,216
Accounts receivable		33,548	
Total assets	33,880,817	419,833	619,866
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>			
Accounts and other payables	14,248	81	619,866
<b>NET ASSETS:</b>			
Held in trust for pension benefits and other purposes	\$ 33,866,569	\$ 419,752	\$ -

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUTSTATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET ASSETS

**FIDUCIARY FUNDS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND JUNE 30, 2009**

	<b>Pension Trust Funds December 31, 2008</b>	<b>Private Purpose Trust Fund June 30, 2009</b>
Additions:		
Contributions:		
Employer	\$ 2,941,678	\$ -
Employee	1,199,405	
Private		23,620
Total contributions	4,141,083	23,620
Net investment income	(8,078,202)	(7,931)
Total additions	(3,937,119)	15,689
Deductions:		
Benefit payments / annuity purchases	3,017,123	
Refund of contributions	264,810	
Administrative expense	156,405	
Awards		16,016
Total deductions	3,438,338	16,016
Change in plan net assets	(7,375,457)	(327)
Net assets at January 1 and July 1, 2008 (as restated)	41,242,026	420,079
Net Assets at December 31, 2008 and June 30, 2009	\$ 33,866,569	\$ 419,752



**COMPARATIVE GENERAL FUND OPERATING STATEMENT**  
**BUDGET AND ACTUAL (BUDGETARY BASIS)**

	Fiscal Year 2008-2009				Fiscal Year 2009-10
	Revised Budget	Actual	Outstanding Encumbrances	Variance Over (Under)	Adopted Budget
<b>REVENUES</b>					
Property taxes	\$51,972,268	\$52,186,924	\$0	\$214,656	\$53,965,435
Intergovernmental	20,230,468	21,194,696	0	964,228	19,822,170
Charges for services	1,242,150	1,421,907	0	179,757	1,082,150
Licenses and permits	685,280	406,025	0	-279,255	437,348
Gifts and contributions	0	0	0	0	0
Fines and penalties	23,400	10,088	0	-13,312	10,630
Investment income	300,200	199,312	0	-100,888	110,200
Other	398,935	429,986	0	31,051	419,503
<b>Total Revenues</b>	74,852,701	75,848,938	0	996,237	75,847,436
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>					
Operating transfers in	598,901	576,876	0	-22,025	242,430
<b>Total revenues and other financing sources</b>	<u>\$75,451,602</u>	<u>\$76,425,814</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$974,212</u>	<u>\$76,089,866</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
Current:					
General government	\$3,429,823	\$3,026,387	\$310,676	\$92,761	\$2,748,176
Community development	239,946	217,126	11,869	10,951	326,497
Public safety	8,056,620	7,381,590	260,874	414,157	7,738,505
Maintenance and development	5,905,186	5,681,841	42,927	180,418	5,635,974
Human services	925,974	899,092	14,760	12,122	926,300
Parks, recreation and culture	1,357,705	1,305,429	20,994	31,282	1,306,615
Town wide	6,495,158	6,167,528	174,559	153,071	6,786,082
Education	46,769,141	45,808,219	650,946	309,977	45,835,932
Capital improvements	122,973	117,423	5,460	90	76,120
Debt service	3,299,617	3,254,029	45,586	2	4,709,665
<b>Total expenditures</b>	76,602,144	73,858,664	1,538,649	1,204,831	76,089,866
<b>OTHER FINANCING USES</b>					
Operating transfers out	2,187,323	2,187,322	0	1	0
<b>Total expenditures and other financing uses</b>	<u>\$78,789,467</u>	<u>\$76,045,987</u>	1,538,649	<u>\$1,204,832</u>	<u>\$76,089,866</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other financing uses		<u><b>\$379,827</b></u>			
June 30, 2008, encumbrances liquidated			1,595,231		
Increase (Decrease) in Unreserved Fund Balance		\$379,827	<u>-\$56,582</u>	<b>\$436,410</b>	
Designation for:				0	
Increase (Decrease) in Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance				<u><b>\$436,410</b></u>	

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT

## GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2009

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance - Over (Under)
	Original	Final	Actual	
<b>Property Tax Levies</b>				
Current year property taxes	\$ 50,436,188.00	\$ 50,436,188.00	\$ 50,564,562.00	\$ 128,374.00
Prior year tax levies	592,000.00	592,000.00	670,164.00	78,164.00
Supplemental motor vehicle tax	618,000.00	618,000.00	549,595.00	(68,405.00)
Interest on delinquent taxes	320,000.00	320,000.00	366,811.23	46,811.23
Warrant revenue	80.00	80.00	31,255.58	31,175.58
Liens	6,000.00	6,000.00	4,536.00	(1,464.00)
<b>Total Property Tax Levies</b>	<b>51,972,268.00</b>	<b>51,972,268.00</b>	<b>52,186,923.81</b>	<b>214,655.81</b>
<b>Intergovernmental</b>				
Civil preparedness	9,100.00	9,100.00	3,832.83	(5,267.17)
Homeland Security Grant	-	-	-	-
FEMA snow disaster program	-	-	-	-
Bullet proof vest grant	1,600.00	1,600.00	3,745.00	2,145.00
Community services block grant	22,016.00	22,016.00	21,845.00	(171.00)
Education cost sharing	17,645,165.00	17,645,165.00	17,564,268.00	(80,897.00)
Public pupil transportation	350,000.00	350,000.00	349,923.00	(77.00)
Non-public pupil transportation	27,000.00	27,000.00	30,510.00	3,510.00
Vocational agriculture	80,000.00	80,000.00	118,455.00	38,455.00
Special education - State agency placement	-	-	363,338.00	363,338.00
Special education - Excess student based grant	-	-	504,546.00	504,546.00
Regular education - State agency placement	-	-	85,648.00	85,648.00
School construction grants - Principal	395,185.00	395,185.00	398,185.60	3,000.60
School construction grants - Interest	34,974.00	34,974.00	34,974.04	0.04
Medicaid Reimbursement	48,000.00	48,000.00	68,187.50	20,187.50
Pilot - Colleges and hospitals	480,054.00	480,054.00	479,447.12	(606.88)
Pilot - State owned property	297,464.00	297,464.00	298,467.30	1,003.30
Pilot - Boat tax reimbursement	10,549.00	10,549.00	10,548.89	(0.11)
Pilot - Shelter rent	22,000.00	22,000.00	19,317.74	(2,682.26)
Tax Relief - Elderly circuit breaker	157,000.00	157,000.00	143,560.54	(13,439.46)
Tax Relief - Disability exemption	4,275.00	4,275.00	5,898.85	1,623.85
Tax Relief - Veterans exemption	37,000.00	37,000.00	28,375.39	(8,624.61)
Tax Relief - New mfg. mach. and equipment	68,000.00	68,000.00	89,375.77	21,375.77
Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan grant	344,236.00	344,236.00	345,723.89	1,487.89
Telephone tax sharing	149,859.00	149,859.00	116,829.68	(33,029.32)
Judicial reimbursement - Parking	140.00	140.00	35.00	(105.00)
Judicial reimbursements	-	-	99.50	99.50
Special reimbursements - Permits	200.00	200.00	172.76	(27.24)
State DUI grant	14,851.00	14,851.00	24,194.68	9,343.68
Motor vehicle violation grant	8,800.00	8,800.00	13,830.00	5,030.00
Historic document preservation grant	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	-
Other - State grants	10,000.00	10,000.00	59,360.68	49,360.68
Open Space / Land Acquisition	1,000.00	1,000.00	-	(1,000.00)
<b>Total Intergovernmental</b>	<b>20,230,468.00</b>	<b>20,230,468.00</b>	<b>21,194,695.76</b>	<b>964,227.76</b>

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT

## GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2009

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance - Over (Under)
	Original	Final	Actual	
<b>Charges for Services</b>				
Town Clerk recording fees	525,000.00	525,000.00	357,430.30	(167,569.70)
Vital statistics	500.00	500.00	-	(500.00)
Vital fees	20,000.00	20,000.00	-	(20,000.00)
Document preservation surcharge	12,000.00	12,000.00	13,269.00	1,269.00
Farmland preservation surcharge	-	-	119,394.00	119,394.00
Printing and copying fees	1,000.00	1,000.00	488.75	(511.25)
Finance administration fee	11,000.00	11,000.00	11,000.00	-
Planning and zoning fees	6,000.00	6,000.00	3,908.00	(2,092.00)
Land use application fee	-	-	-	-
Conservation fees	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,386.00	(614.00)
Assessor fees	4,300.00	4,300.00	3,294.90	(1,005.10)
Tax Collection fees	2,000.00	2,000.00	22,033.87	20,033.87
Police - Special services	10,000.00	10,000.00	168,619.12	158,619.12
Fingerprint fees	2,600.00	2,600.00	-	(2,600.00)
Other - Public safety	4,500.00	4,500.00	-	(4,500.00)
Fire Marshal services	5,350.00	5,350.00	1,242.00	(4,108.00)
Building department - liens	6,000.00	6,000.00	-	(6,000.00)
Solid waste collection fee	20,000.00	20,000.00	-	(20,000.00)
Recycling	32,000.00	32,000.00	40,387.39	8,387.39
Recycling bin promotion	2,500.00	2,500.00	-	(2,500.00)
Bulky waste pickup	13,500.00	13,500.00	12,620.00	(880.00)
Other - Maintenance and development	18,000.00	18,000.00	18,163.99	163.99
Client reimbursements	-	-	3,019.88	3,019.88
Yankee Gas - Administration allocation	900.00	900.00	2,250.00	1,350.00
Energy application administration	-	-	4,844.00	4,844.00
Housing rehabilitation administration	3,000.00	3,000.00	2,194.97	(805.03)
Programs - Aquatics	-	-	-	-
Programs - League fees	-	-	-	-
Programs - Camp Newhoca	-	-	-	-
Programs - Summer Highlights	-	-	-	-
Programs - Extended day	-	-	-	-
Programs - Instructor fees	-	-	-	-
Recreation - Special events	-	-	-	-
Other - Recreation	-	-	7,807.52	7,807.52
Tuition - Special education	-	-	5,902.00	5,902.00
Tuition - Vo-Ag	480,000.00	480,000.00	399,888.00	(80,112.00)
Tuition - Special education Vo-Ag	60,000.00	60,000.00	87,104.00	27,104.00
Tuition - Individual	-	-	7,992.00	7,992.00
School use activity	-	-	60,000.00	60,000.00
Other - Education	-	-	67,667.36	67,667.36
<b>Total Charges for Services</b>	<b>1,242,150.00</b>	<b>1,242,150.00</b>	<b>1,421,907.05</b>	<b>179,757.05</b>

Licenses and Permits

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT

## GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2009

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance - Over (Under)</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
Building permits	571,000.00	571,000.00	303,955.02	(267,044.98)
Zoning Review	300.00	300.00	250.00	(50.00)
ZBA Fees	-	-	4,600.00	4,600.00
Zoning Permits	12,500.00	12,500.00	4,775.00	(7,725.00)
Town Clerk license surcharge	3,280.00	3,280.00	3,515.00	235.00
Refuse licensing	3,400.00	3,400.00	8,000.00	4,600.00
Transfer station permits	88,000.00	88,000.00	72,975.00	(15,025.00)
Driveway & road cut Permits	6,800.00	6,800.00	7,955.00	1,155.00
<b>Total Licenses and Permits</b>	<b>685,280.00</b>	<b>685,280.00</b>	<b>406,025.02</b>	<b>(279,254.98)</b>
<b><u>Fines and Penalties</u></b>				
Parking tags	22,000.00	22,000.00	9,797.66	(12,202.34)
Returned check charge	400.00	400.00	140.00	(260.00)
Zoning citations	1,000.00	1,000.00	150.00	(850.00)
<b>Total Fines and Penalties</b>	<b>23,400.00</b>	<b>23,400.00</b>	<b>10,087.66</b>	<b>(13,312.34)</b>
<b><u>Gifts &amp; Contributions</u></b>				
Friends of Hockanum River Linear Park	-	-	-	-
Summer camp scholarships	-	-	-	-
CT Historical Commission	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Gifts and Contributions</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b><u>Use of Money and Property</u></b>				
General Fund income from investments	299,000.00	299,000.00	198,802.46	(100,197.54)
Interest on investments - Teachers' Retirement Board	1,200.00	1,200.00	509.59	(690.41)
Rental income - Annex	24,000.00	24,000.00	24,000.00	-
Senior Center - Rental income	200.00	200.00	125.00	(75.00)
Rental management	50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	-
Proceeds from sale of property	-	-	23,010.00	23,010.00
<b>Total Use of Money and Property</b>	<b>374,400.00</b>	<b>374,400.00</b>	<b>296,447.05</b>	<b>(77,952.95)</b>
<b><u>Other Revenue</u></b>				
Medical insurance reimbursements	181,372.00	181,372.00	174,731.88	(6,640.12)
Insurance reimbursements	-	-	9,174.77	9,174.77
Gasoline reimbursements	74,513.00	74,513.00	80,777.99	6,264.99
Refunds and reimbursements	-	-	-	-
Tolland - East / East Main Street sewers	43,029.00	43,029.00	43,029.75	0.75
Lease - Ellington pump station	5,821.00	5,821.00	19,203.95	13,382.95
Miscellaneous	20,000.00	20,000.00	5,933.18	(14,066.82)
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>324,735.00</b>	<b>324,735.00</b>	<b>332,851.52</b>	<b>8,116.52</b>

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT

## GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2009

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance - Over (Under)</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>74,852,701.00</b>	<b>74,852,701.00</b>	<b>75,848,937.87</b>	<b>996,236.87</b>
<b><u>Other Financing Sources</u></b>				
Transfers in:				
Education - Health insurance savings	317,000.00	317,000.00	317,000.00	-
Recreation programs	71,400.00	71,400.00	72,250.00	850.00
Sewer assessments - Ordinance # 167	54,000.00	54,000.00	54,000.00	-
Sewer assessments - Ordinance # 201	22,000.00	22,000.00	22,000.00	-
CDBG - Small Cities	-	-	4,381.87	4,381.87
Police working with youth	14,400.00	14,400.00	-	(14,400.00)
Ambulance services	82,000.00	82,000.00	88,672.52	6,672.52
Investment income - Insurance exchange	2,500.00	2,500.00	1,090.63	(1,409.37)
Investment income - Town Aid for Roads	7,540.00	7,540.00	2,890.35	(4,649.65)
Investment income - School readiness	320.00	320.00	48.14	(271.86)
Investment income - Post employment fund	4,080.00	4,080.00	2,210.00	(1,870.00)
Investment income - Cultural arts program	-	-	16.37	16.37
Investment income - Sewer Assessments	6,350.00	6,350.00	2,490.23	(3,859.77)
Investment income - WTP debt service fund	17,311.00	17,311.00	9,825.63	(7,485.37)
<b>Total Other Financing Sources</b>	<b>598,901.00</b>	<b>598,901.00</b>	<b>576,875.74</b>	<b>(22,025.26)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 75,451,602.00</b>	<b>\$ 75,451,602.00</b>	<b>\$ 76,425,813.61</b>	<b>\$ 974,211.61</b>

Budgetary revenues are different than GAAP revenue because:

Intrafund transfer in is not a GAAP revenue

(317,000.00)

State of Connecticut "on-behalf" contributions to the Connecticut State Teachers'

Retirement System for Town teachers are not budgeted .....

3,476,236.00

Total revenues and other financing sources as reported on the statement of

revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance - governmental funds - Exhibit D:

\$79,585,049.61

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT

GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2009

<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>			Variance - Over (Under)
Original	Final	Actual	

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT

## GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2009

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Expenditures	Outstanding Encumbrances	Total Expenditures & Encumbrances	Variance with Final Budget
<b><u>General Government</u></b>						
Town Council	\$17,869.00	\$22,659.39	\$13,539.17	\$4,664.83	\$18,204.00	\$4,455.39
Probate Court	14,031.00	26,444.23	14,017.22	12,396.01	26,413.23	31.00
Executive and Administrative	740,985.00	829,415.72	754,150.88	12,663.28	766,814.16	62,601.56
Law	147,400.00	257,899.36	244,964.78	10,064.47	255,029.25	2,870.11
Registration	87,305.00	89,310.44	87,904.97	1,066.77	88,971.74	338.70
General Election	24,050.00	44,761.24	43,834.02	874.91	44,708.93	52.31
Primary	1.00	162.00	161.00	0.00	161.00	1.00
Referendum	9,900.00	9,900.00	7,351.74	2,309.00	9,660.74	239.26
Finance Administration	402,459.00	464,194.25	423,357.13	37,189.11	460,546.24	3,648.01
Independent audit	40,300.00	44,720.00	41,520.00	3,200.00	44,720.00	-
Treasury	2,440.00	35,541.78	8,355.21	27,015.00	35,370.21	171.57
Purchasing	11,240.00	17,890.00	10,805.34	6,830.59	17,635.93	254.07
Assessment	259,073.00	282,131.10	262,492.26	18,019.10	280,511.36	1,619.74
Refunds - Tax adjustments	29,000.00	29,000.00	22,214.39	0.00	22,214.39	6,785.61
Collector of Revenue	248,044.00	318,859.08	301,717.23	14,236.56	315,953.79	2,905.29
Revaluation	25,000.00	43,805.00	10,480.58	33,300.00	43,780.58	24.42
Town Clerk	288,851.00	441,717.81	415,911.33	19,226.09	435,137.42	6,580.39
Board of Assessment Appeals	2,700.00	2,700.00	2,550.00	0.00	2,550.00	150.00
Water Pollution Control Authority	13,021.00	13,021.00	13,013.00	0.00	13,013.00	8.00
Greater Hartford Transit District	2,806.00	2,806.00	2,806.00	0.00	2,806.00	-
Data Processing	316,697.00	452,885.00	345,240.54	107,619.93	452,860.47	24.53
<b>Total General Government</b>	<b>2,683,172.00</b>	<b>3,429,823.40</b>	<b>3,026,386.79</b>	<b>310,675.65</b>	<b>3,337,062.44</b>	<b>92,760.96</b>
<b><u>Community Development</u></b>						
Town Planner - Administration	\$223,781.00	\$239,946.47	\$217,126.36	\$11,868.87	\$228,995.23	\$10,951.24
Community and Economic Development	-	-	-	-	0.00	-
<b>Total Community Development</b>	<b>223,781.00</b>	<b>239,946.47</b>	<b>217,126.36</b>	<b>11,868.87</b>	<b>228,995.23</b>	<b>10,951.24</b>
<b><u>Public Safety</u></b>						
Police	\$5,749,313.00	\$5,876,438.79	\$5,517,143.48	\$45,087.05	\$5,562,230.53	\$314,208.26
School Crossing Guards	62,348.00	62,348.00	59,067.95	0.00	59,067.95	3,280.05
Traffic Authority	324,760.00	407,614.48	285,574.84	71,720.86	357,295.70	50,318.78
Fire Fighting and Administration	1,023,694.00	1,173,774.74	1,028,248.20	138,335.30	1,166,583.50	7,191.24
Fire Marshal	69,930.00	78,393.00	77,402.42	0.00	77,402.42	990.58
Building Inspection	303,299.00	306,215.48	267,937.17	3,680.62	271,617.79	34,597.69
Emergency Management	42,659.00	42,659.00	39,743.92	2,050.00	41,793.92	865.08
Animal Control	104,232.00	109,177.00	106,472.03	0.00	106,472.03	2,704.97
<b>Total Public Safety</b>	<b>7,680,235.00</b>	<b>8,056,620.49</b>	<b>7,381,590.01</b>	<b>260,873.83</b>	<b>7,642,463.84</b>	<b>414,156.65</b>

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT

## GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2009

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Expenditures	Outstanding Encumbrances	Total Expenditures & Encumbrances	Variance with Final Budget
<b><u>Maintenance and Development</u></b>						
Public Works Administration	\$571,292.00	\$639,356.02	\$622,137.21	\$6,850.21	\$628,987.42	\$10,368.60
General Maintenance	1,212,660.00	1,213,985.00	1,202,152.13	6,164.72	1,208,316.85	5,668.15
Equipment Maintenance	730,960.00	823,827.00	762,533.15	2,768.74	765,301.89	58,525.11
Maintenance of Governmental Buildings	853,439.00	932,336.89	901,560.63	21,508.53	923,069.16	9,267.73
Snow Removal	194,740.00	231,967.00	229,266.55	0.00	229,266.55	2,700.45
Refuse Collection and Disposal	1,342,927.00	1,271,666.21	1,218,616.69	2,248.56	1,220,865.25	50,800.96
Recycling	367,527.00	386,335.98	364,770.65	0.00	364,770.65	21,565.33
Condominium Refuse	4,458.00	5,265.00	5,265.00	0.00	5,265.00	-
Tree Warden	10,680.00	10,680.00	8,221.65	1,500.00	9,721.65	958.35
Leaf Collection	121,725.00	121,725.00	110,021.69	0.00	110,021.69	11,703.31
Engineering Administrative Services	267,601.00	268,041.98	257,295.94	1,886.00	259,181.94	8,860.04
<b>Total Maintenance and Development</b>	<b>5,678,009.00</b>	<b>5,905,186.08</b>	<b>5,681,841.29</b>	<b>42,926.76</b>	<b>5,724,768.05</b>	<b>180,418.03</b>
<b><u>Human Services</u></b>						
North Central District Health	\$113,941.00	\$113,941.00	\$113,940.48	\$0.00	\$113,940.48	\$0.52
Visiting Nurses & Health Services	21,000.00	23,721.63	12,248.51	11,473.12	23,721.63	-
Hockanum Valley Community Council	160,000.00	163,983.29	163,897.29	86.00	163,983.29	-
Child Guidance Clinic	11,000.00	11,000.00	11,000.00	0.00	11,000.00	-
Exchange Club - Prevent Child Abuse	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00	8,000.00	-
Hockanum Industries	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	0.00	6,500.00	-
MARC, Inc. of Manchester	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	-
Tri-Town Shelter Services	9,000.00	9,000.00	7,244.00	1,756.00	9,000.00	-
Connecticut Legal Services	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	-
Hartford Interval House	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00	-
YWCA Sexual Assault Clinic	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	-
Hockanum Valley School Readiness	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	-
Social Services Administration	223,172.00	228,940.00	227,916.01	149.00	228,065.01	874.99
Youth Services	208,259.00	220,067.00	215,672.21	644.32	216,316.53	3,750.47
Senior Center	125,731.00	125,821.00	117,673.77	651.06	118,324.83	7,496.17
<b>Total Human Services</b>	<b>901,603.00</b>	<b>925,973.92</b>	<b>899,092.27</b>	<b>14,759.50</b>	<b>913,851.77</b>	<b>12,122.15</b>
<b><u>Parks, Recreation, and Culture</u></b>						
Recreation Administration	\$396,246.00	\$409,415.79	\$403,915.65	\$1,660.75	\$405,576.40	\$3,839.39
Programs	0.00	8,302.17	8,054.67	0.00	8,054.67	247.50
Aquatics	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Public Celebration	12,800.00	12,800.00	4,800.00	8,000.00	12,800.00	-
Parks Maintenance	576,415.00	607,247.03	572,899.40	7,152.80	580,052.20	27,194.83
Arts Commission	11,140.00	14,940.00	10,759.33	4,180.00	14,939.33	0.67
Historical Society	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	-
Rockville Public Library	300,000.00	300,000.00	300,000.00	0.00	300,000.00	-
<b>Total Parks, Recreation, and Culture</b>	<b>1,301,601.00</b>	<b>1,357,704.99</b>	<b>1,305,429.05</b>	<b>20,993.55</b>	<b>1,326,422.60</b>	<b>31,282.39</b>



TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT

## GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2009

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Expenditures	Outstanding Encumbrances	Total Expenditures & Encumbrances	Variance with Final Budget
Social Security and Medicare	\$909,000.00	\$909,000.00	\$875,851.04	\$0.00	\$875,851.04	\$33,148.96
Pension	1,901,600.00	2,016,546.75	1,964,043.00	\$52,503.75	2,016,546.75	-
Group Insurance	2,623,000.00	2,760,088.58	2,582,792.51	100,079.82	2,682,872.33	77,216.25
Unemployment Compensation	25,000.00	26,789.98	15,008.00	11,781.98	26,789.98	-
Municipal Insurance	684,197.00	693,842.00	682,591.87	0.00	682,591.87	11,250.13
Contingency	150,086.00	36,016.75	4,561.28	0.00	4,561.28	31,455.47
Housing Authority Sewer Subsidy	43,735.00	52,873.74	42,680.26	10,193.48	52,873.74	-
<b>Total Town Wide</b>	<b>6,336,618.00</b>	<b>6,495,157.80</b>	<b>6,167,527.96</b>	<b>174,559.03</b>	<b>6,342,086.99</b>	<b>153,070.81</b>
<b>Subtotal - General Government</b>	<b>24,805,019.00</b>	<b>26,410,413.15</b>	<b>24,678,993.73</b>	<b>836,657.19</b>	<b>25,515,650.92</b>	<b>894,762.23</b>
<b><u>Capital Improvements</u></b>						
Capital Improvements - Town	30,900.00	122,973.00	117,423.00	5,460.00	122,883.00	90.00
<b>Total Capital Improvements</b>	<b>30,900.00</b>	<b>122,973.00</b>	<b>117,423.00</b>	<b>5,460.00</b>	<b>122,883.00</b>	<b>90.00</b>
<b><u>Debt Service</u></b>						
Debt Service Principal Payments	1,692,454.00	1,740,634.00	1,731,047.34	9,586.00	1,740,633.34	0.66
Debt Service Interest Payments	1,531,583.00	1,558,983.00	1,522,981.65	36,000.00	1,558,981.65	1.35
<b>Total Debt Service</b>	<b>3,224,037.00</b>	<b>3,299,617.00</b>	<b>3,254,028.99</b>	<b>45,586.00</b>	<b>3,299,614.99</b>	<b>2.01</b>
<b>Subtotal - Cap. Improve. / Debt Service</b>	<b>3,254,937.00</b>	<b>3,422,590.00</b>	<b>3,371,451.99</b>	<b>51,046.00</b>	<b>3,422,497.99</b>	<b>92.01</b>

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT

## GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2009

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Expenditures	Outstanding Encumbrances	Total Expenditures & Encumbrances	Variance with Final Budget
<b>Education</b>						
Regular instruction	\$18,725,566.00	\$19,290,761.76	\$19,092,859.63	\$88,482.86	\$19,181,342.49	\$ 109,419.27
Special Education instruction	3,687,866.00	3,817,056.21	3,894,907.71	7,722.01	3,902,629.72	(85,573.51)
Continuing Education	253,013.00	252,538.00	249,764.07	0.00	249,764.07	2,773.93
Special Education program support	1,886,661.00	2,747,147.18	2,447,741.83	12,286.94	2,460,028.77	287,118.41
Social Work services	472,314.00	480,757.20	508,465.36	37.03	508,502.39	(27,745.19)
Guidance services	629,238.00	629,502.83	624,037.67	0.00	624,037.67	5,465.16
Health services	388,283.00	387,296.86	377,219.90	0.00	377,219.90	10,076.96
Psychological services	632,907.00	645,811.00	554,741.36	22,436.25	577,177.61	68,633.39
Speech pathology & audio services	514,895.00	509,623.80	507,392.91	0.00	507,392.91	2,230.89
Instructional program support	35,678.00	31,105.70	22,457.56	245.50	22,703.06	8,402.64
Library / Media services	345,830.00	389,848.47	361,933.40	15,356.73	377,290.13	12,558.34
Curriculum development	1,065,238.00	984,676.64	952,889.28	30,749.70	983,638.98	1,037.66
Superintendent's office	443,466.00	451,286.00	443,084.83	0.00	443,084.83	8,201.17
Board of Education - Elected	149,680.00	110,976.00	58,096.21	24,251.58	82,347.79	28,628.21
Principal office services	1,928,287.00	1,965,362.67	1,913,495.82	12,206.78	1,925,702.60	39,660.07
Business office	453,706.00	465,697.64	400,632.43	7,835.27	408,467.70	57,229.94
Capital Reserve	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Building / Plant operations	4,213,519.00	4,497,294.18	4,290,163.21	76,857.66	4,367,020.87	130,273.31
Student transportation services	2,145,917.00	2,286,047.22	2,451,062.92	8,203.20	2,459,266.12	(173,218.90)
General control	164,900.00	164,900.00	165,542.04	26,353.92	191,895.96	(26,995.96)
Information systems	234,154.00	234,154.00	270,200.00	0.00	270,200.00	(36,046.00)
System-wide fringe benefits	6,334,858.00	5,929,309.77	5,749,723.59	317,920.21	6,067,643.80	(138,334.03)
Extra curricular student activities	487,635.00	490,142.05	471,806.80	0.00	471,806.80	18,335.25
Contingency	186,212.00	7,845.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,845.96
<b>Total Education</b>	<b>\$45,379,823.00</b>	<b>\$46,769,141.14</b>	<b>\$45,808,218.53</b>	<b>\$650,945.64</b>	<b>\$46,459,164.17</b>	<b>\$309,976.97</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>73,439,779.00</b>	<b>76,602,144.29</b>	<b>73,858,664.25</b>	<b>1,538,648.83</b>	<b>75,397,313.08</b>	<b>1,204,831.21</b>

TOWN OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT

## GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2009

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Expenditures	Outstanding Encumbrances	Total Expenditures & Encumbrances	Variance with Final Budget
<u>Other Financing Uses</u>						
Transfers Out:						
Education - Transfer out	\$317,000.00	\$317,000.00	\$317,000.00	\$0.00	\$317,000.00	\$ -
Capital Improvements - Education	-	102,000.00	102,000.00	-	102,000.00	-
Town Clerk - Preservation surcharge	-	4,420.00	4,420.00	-	4,420.00	-
Planning - Open Space	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	-	10,000.00	-
Community Economic Develop.	105,881.00	105,881.00	105,881.00	-	105,881.00	-
Animal Control	22,000.00	22,000.00	22,000.00	-	22,000.00	-
Social Services Administration	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	-	7,500.00	-
Public Celebration	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	-	4,000.00	-
Capital Improvements - Town	108,100.00	177,180.00	177,180.00	-	177,180.00	-
Vernon Cemetery Commission	133,053.00	133,053.00	133,053.00	-	133,053.00	-
Debt Service - WTP Principal Payments	1,110,683.00	1,110,683.00	1,110,682.38	-	1,110,682.38	0.62
Debt Service - WTP Interest Payments	193,606.00	193,606.00	193,605.90	-	193,605.90	0.10
<b>Total Other Financing Uses</b>	<b>2,011,823.00</b>	<b>2,187,323.00</b>	<b>2,187,322.28</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,187,322.28</b>	<b># 0.72</b>
<b>Total Expenditures and Other Financing Uses</b>	<b>75,451,602.00</b>	<b>\$ 78,789,467.29</b>	<b>\$ 76,045,986.53</b>	<b>\$ 1,538,648.83</b>	<b>\$ 77,584,635.36</b>	<b>\$ 1,204,831.93</b>

Budgetary expenditures are different than GAAP expenditures because:

Intrafund transfer out is not a GAAP expenditure	(317,000.00)
--	--------------

State of Connecticut "on-behalf" payments to the Connecticut State Teachers' Retirement	
---	--

System for Town teachers are not budgeted	3,476,236.00
---	--------------

Encumbrances for purchases and commitments ordered but not received are reported in the year the order is placed for budgetary purposes, but in the year received for financial reporting purposes	(1,538,648.83)
--	----------------

Total expenditures and other financing sources as reported on the statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances - governmental funds - Exhibit D	\$ 79,205,222.53
--	------------------

---

## Town Clerk / Registrar of Vital Statistics

---

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:**

Bernice K. Dixon, CCTC, Town Clerk

**DEPARTMENT LOCATION:**

Town Hall - Memorial Building - 14 Park Place, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

To serve as the information center on functions of local government and community and to uphold the constitutional government and the laws of this community; to maintain professional standards of quality and integrity so that the conduct of the affairs of this office shall be above reproach and merit public confidence in our community; to record and preserve that which is true and entrusted into the care of this office; to strive constantly to improve the administration of the affairs of this office consistent with applicable laws and through sound management practices to produce continued progress and so fulfill our responsibilities to our community and others; and to participate in education programs, seminars and workshops and to regularly attend the professional organization meetings on the county, state, regional and international levels to ensure the attainment of our goals.

**RESPONSIBILITIES, DUTIES AND ANNUAL SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:**

Over the years, Town Clerk's Offices have become the direct link between the residents of the community and their government. The Town Clerk's Office is the repository of municipal information for the community, responsible for the entire recorded history of the Town and its people. The Town Clerk's office provides a wide scope of services to the public, to all Town Offices, to the Mayor and Town Council, and residents/taxpayers.

Connecticut State Statutes and the Town Charter govern the duties and responsibilities of the Office of the Town Clerk / Registrar of Vital Statistics. The Town Clerk's Office recorded and processed 5,634 land record documents pertaining to real estate, including 589 property transfers from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. These records encompass 56 volumes and approximately 18,843 pages. In addition, 88 maps, 60 veterans' discharges, 411 notary related transactions, 123 trade names, and 42 liquor permits were filed, recorded, and processed. There were 777 sporting licenses, 1,924 dog licenses, and 1 kennel license issued. The Office is actively involved in the preparation and the conducting of all elections, primaries, and referenda of which there were 4. Campaign finance reports are also filed with and maintained by the Town Clerk's Office.

The Town Clerk in Vernon is, by virtue of the State Statutes, also the Registrar of Vital Statistics. During this fiscal year, this office issued and/or received from other Towns records of 615 births, 515 marriages, 3 civil unions, 417 deaths, 332 burial permits, 112 cremation permits, and 3 disinterment permits. This office also issued 4,670 certified copies of birth, marriage, and death records.

**SERVICES OFFERED:**

- Absentee Ballot Issuance
- Dog License Issuance
- Election Preparation
- Land and Map Recordation
- Marriage/Civil Union License Issuance
- Notary Public Services/Registration/Certification

- Schedule of Regular Meeting Date Filings
- Sporting License Issuance
- State Conveyance Tax Return Processing
- Trade Name Registration
- Liquor Permit Registration
- Veteran Registration
- Certified Copies of Vital (Birth, Marriage, Civil Union, Death) Records
- Voter Registration/Identification Cards

**RECORDS MAINTAINED AND INDEXED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION:**

- Burial Book/Sexton's Returns
- Election/Referendum Statistics
- Elected and Appointed Officials Data
- Land and Map Records
- Liquor Permits
- Minutes and Agendas of Town Meetings
- Town Code of Ordinances
- Trade Name/DBA Records
- Veteran Discharge Records
- Vital Statistics Indices
- Writs and Claim Notification

**REPOSITORY OF:**

Miscellaneous Agreements and Contracts, Annual Reports, Budgets, Campaign Finance Filings, and Other Miscellaneous Correspondence, Minutes and Information.

# EDUCATION

---

## Vernon Board of Education

---

**Superintendent:** Richard J. Paskiewicz

**Assistant Superintendent:** Deborah Murasso

**Members of Board of Education:**

Catherine Rebai, Chairperson; Anne Fischer, Vice Chairperson;

George Apel; Dean Houle; David Kemp; Vicky Rispoli; Amarjit Buttar; Diana Gagne; Susan Norlie-Hesnan.

**Responsibilities and Duties:** The authority, duties and responsibilities of the Board have been established by the Connecticut statutes, federal laws, and the Town Charter. The Board of Education scheduled regular meetings were held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month with the exception of July, when the Board did not meet, and August and December when it met only once. In addition, Board committees met throughout the year to deal with budget, policy, facilities, and negotiations.

**School Data:**

The following is a list of the five elementary schools. The number in parenthesis reflects the October 1, 2008 enrollment for each school:

- Center Road School (468)
- Lake Street School (288)
- Maple Street School (263)
- Northeast School (289)
- Skinner Road School (313)

All elementary schools contain grades K-5. In addition, Center Road School also has a system-wide preschool program for students with special needs.

There are two schools that enroll students in grades 6-12.

- Vernon Center Middle School (781) accommodates students in grades 6-8.
- Rockville High School (1,166) accommodates students in grades 9-12.

In addition, Talcottville School (16) is a day treatment facility that provides a program for special needs students in grades 5-12 who require a more restrictive environment than Vernon's other schools can provide.

The total enrollment for the district was 3584. The total budget for the 2008-2009 school year was \$45,696,823.

**Student Achievement**

As a result of local testing policies and state and federal mandates, Vernon students in grades 3 through 8 and grade 10 participated in a demanding scope of testing experiences. The careful, accurate analysis of test results provided the basis for the improvement of teaching and learning. ***School Instructional Plans (SIP)*** and the ***District Improvement Plan (DIP)*** documented the specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and timely (***SMART***) goals that became the focus of targeted actions to maximize achievement

for all students and to minimize achievement disparities for subgroups of students. During the 2008-2009 school year, the following trends were reflected in district testing:

**On the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT):** Evidence of incremental and significant growth was demonstrated in a comparison of student achievement from 2008 to 2009. Of the thirty-six (36) data points compared over a two-year period for both the percent of students at/above goal as well as those at/above proficient, there is evidence of district-wide improvement in 21 (or 58%) of them.

	Mathematics				Reading				Writing			
	% at/above goal		% at/above proficient		% at/above goal		% at/above proficient		% at/above goal		% at/above proficient	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
<b>Grade 3</b>	57.5	54.5	78.9	79.9	48	37.5	67.7	61	61.6	50.9	80.8	82.7
<b>Grade 4</b>	50.4	53.7	76.4	79.3	53.3	57.4	69.8	72.6	64.9	63.1	85.1	85.4
<b>Grade 5</b>	69.6	63.4	85.4	84.1	62.7	64.2	75.7	80.8	65.4	67.9	86.6	84.8
<b>Grade 6</b>	63.1	64.1	85.9	88.3	66.6	65.5	78.6	83.1	54	49.6	75.8	73.8
<b>Grade 7</b>	57.8	59.4	82.8	85.2	72.4	69.6	81.9	81.6	57.2	53.5	75.7	74.1
<b>Grade 8</b>	57.5	64.1	84.4	87.8	54.5	64.8	73.8	76.3	49.5	61.8	73.5	81.5

**On the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT):** In all areas tested on the grade 10 CAPT, the percent of Vernon students scoring at/above proficient level exceeded the District Reference Group (DRG) averages; in two of the four areas tested, the percent of students scoring at/above proficient exceeded the State averages.

	Mathematics	Science	Reading	Writing
<b>Vernon</b>	81.3	86.2	81.6	83.7
<b>DRG G</b>	74.1	76.4	77.4	82.5
<b>State</b>	78.4	78.4	81.8	86.5

**On the Federal No Child Left Behind – Adequate Yearly Progress Report:** According to federal legislation, approximately 8 in 10 of all students and subgroups of 40 or more students (economically disadvantaged, minority, students with disabilities, and English language learners) are required to achieve the proficiency targets of *No Child Left Behind*. Based on these higher academic content standards, four Vernon schools achieved AYP. Lake Street School and Center Road School met the ambitious targets where approximately 8 in 10 students scored at/above proficient in reading and math. And Vernon Center Middle School and Skinner Road School achieved AYP through the “Safe Harbor” provision by reducing by 10% the percent of students who achieved at/below basic from 2008 to 2009. Three Vernon schools (MSS, NES, RHS) and the District did not achieve AYP.

**AYP Status for 2008-09 (based on the Spring 2009 administration of the CMT/CAPT)**

School	AYP Status
Center Road School	Achieved
Lake Street School	Achieved
Skinner Road School	Achieved “Safe Harbor”
Vernon Center Middle School	Achieved “Safe Harbor”
Northeast School	Not Achieved
Maple Street School	Not Achieved
Rockville High School	Not Achieved
District	Not Achieved

For more information on *District and School Improvement Planning*, please visit the Vernon Public Schools website at [www.vernonschools.com](http://www.vernonschools.com), and select "Publications."

### **Professional Development**

To ensure that Vernon educators are provided with high quality, rigorous, professional development experiences linked to advancing student learning, the Vernon Public Schools planned and implemented a variety of meaningful and relevant in-service activities to address individual and department needs; to support curriculum, instruction, and assessment practices; and to achieve the SMART goals of our *District Improvement Plan*. What follows is a summary of the professional development activities provided during the 2008-09 school year:

#### **\* Technology Workshops**

The Vernon Board of Education provided a number of technology workshops for its staff to improve teaching and learning. Over 500 local and regional employees participated in workshops to enhance their skills in *Microsoft Excel, AppliTrack, Naviance, Organizing and Using Data to Inform Instruction, Photo Editing, Teacher Support Websites, T-Inspire, IEP Direct, Using Pasco Probeware and the Apperson Scanner, and Using Technology to Support Teaching and Learning Across the Content Areas*.

#### **\* Staff/Professional Development Days**

A combination of activities that supported the SMART goals of *School Instructional Plans* and the *District Improvement Plan* were planned and facilitated by members of Vernon's administrative team on the two scheduled staff/professional development days as outlined on the 2008-09 school calendar: *August 29, 2008 and November 4, 2008*.

#### **\* Capturing Kids' Hearts**

To enhance interpersonal relationships and classroom management skills that improve school climate and school results, an additional eight (8) teachers participated in *Capturing Kids' Hearts* training during the 2008-09 school year. This brings to 85 the number of teachers and administrators who have been trained.

#### **\* Teacher Induction Series**

Supporting new teachers in the critical induction years was the focus of a series of after school support sessions provided for first and second year teachers: *September 26, 2008; October 29, 2008; December 15, 2008; March 18, 2009, and April 15, 2009*. The purpose of these sessions was

- to keep new teachers informed of the requirements and professional responsibilities they have toward certification;
- to share updates from the Connecticut State Department of Education BEST Program;
- to share and discuss the SMART goals of Vernon's District Improvement Plan;
- to guide new teachers through Vernon's Teacher Evaluation and Professional Growth Plan;
- to discuss elements of effective teaching, classroom management, cooperative learning, lesson mastery, positive expectations, and differentiated instruction; and
- to provide new teachers a forum to network with their colleagues.

#### **\* Administrator Evaluation and Professional Development**

Training in *Special Education and 504 Guidelines: What Administrators Must Know* was provided to the members of Vernon's administrative team on August 21, 2008.

#### **\* Leadership and Learning Center**

To support the goals of our *District Improvement Plan*, we partnered with the *Leadership and Learning Center* to provide high quality professional development in the "practices of improving schools."

On *October 27-28, 2008*, fifty members of our staff participated in training to refine their skills in the implementation of *Data Driven Decision Making/Data Teams*.



On September 26, 2008, and then again, on December 15, 2008, our newest staff members participated in workshops designed to improve teaching and learning: *Vocabulary for Academic Success* and *Writing to Learn: Effective Strategies to Promote Thinking and Learning across the Content Areas*.

**\* Embedded Professional Development – Data Teams**

All staff participated in monthly meetings to practice and implement the data team protocol: identifying a skill or competency giving the greatest number of students difficulty; discussing ways to more effectively teach to that area of weakness; selecting a strategy or solution that they believe has the greatest potential for impact; and committing as a team to experimenting with the new strategy, assessing its impact, and being ready to report back on student results at the next meeting.

**Curriculum Development:**

To continue the process of aligning local curriculum with state frameworks and of identifying a limited set of learning objectives for each grade and for each subject (the “Safety Net” curriculum), approximately twenty-seven educators participated in summer work to develop new or revised curriculum for the following courses: *Grade 6 Family & Consumer Science; Elementary Mathematics, K-5; General Geometry; Transition Math; Consumer Math; Honors Chemistry; Wood II/Construction; DC Electronics; and AP Language & Composition*.

**Visual Arts:**

Vernon Art students in Grades 5, 8 and Rockville High School improved their achievement in art vocabulary knowledge from 30% to 70%.

The Rockville Public Library continued to confirm its commitment to the arts and community by hosting an extensive student art exhibit and reception during March, which is Youth Art Month. The Vernon Board of Education continues to expand its permanent Art collection of student works, which can be viewed in its meeting chambers.

The Connecticut Association of Schools and the Westfield Corporation presented arts awards to Grade 5 students from each Vernon elementary school and a senior from Rockville High School. These students were selected as recipients based on their leadership, outstanding performance, and abilities in the visual arts.

The new collection of Vernon’s student artwork at the Rockville Juvenile Courthouse has promoted students’ visual arts achievements and has been a very successful collaboration of The Vernon Art Department and the Rockville Juvenile Courthouse.

Ten middle and high school students received awards from the Connecticut Scholastic Art Awards program. Over 1500 pieces of student artwork were submitted to this juried, statewide visual arts competition, while only 350 were selected.

Rockville High School enrolled 60% of its students in Visual Arts classes. The sustained enrollment demonstrates students’ continued interest in gaining knowledge and skills in the visual arts.

A total of 25 Rockville High School Art students participated in four workshops at the invitation of the University of Hartford Art School. The full day studio and gallery opportunities were provided by the Savings Bank of Manchester Foundation.

Robert Waggoner, a junior Art student at Rockville High School, received first place for his piece in the Congressional Art Awards competition sponsored by Congressman Joseph Courtney. His artwork will hang in the Halls of Congress in Washington, DC for one year.

Vernon Art staff worked with the Connecticut State Department of Education on the design, development and piloting of a statewide Visual Arts Assessment. Some have additionally chosen to participate in the Department of Education's *ArtMusica* summer professional development institute.

### **Music:**

The Rockville High School Music Department performed three concerts involving the symphony band, choir, pops ensemble and various soloists. The marching band hosted the 16th Annual Festival of Bands. They also participated in 6 home football games, 8 competitions and other civic events. They also performed in Vernon's two bicentennial parades and the Memorial Day parade. A highlight of the year was receiving the CT State Championship for Division III Bands at the USBBA New England States Championship held in New Britain on October 23.

Fifteen RHS band and chorus members were selected from auditions to participate in the Eastern Region High School Music Festival at UCONN. Three chorus students were accepted from auditions to perform in the All-State Chorus. A highlight of the year was performing in the new auditorium, beginning with its dedication in November. At the March concert, the chorus invited members of the 5th grade chorus from each elementary school and the 8th grade chorus from VCMS to join in the performance of two songs. New to this concert was the addition of the 8th grade band members joining the RHS band in the performance of one number. During the April vacation, the symphony band traveled to Williamsburg, VA to participate in the 2009 Festival of Music. The symphony band was awarded first place honors in their division. The band concluded their year at the Adult Education and RHS graduation ceremonies. Throughout the year, many chorus members were heard performing the National Anthem at school events and the State of CT's honoring of WWII veterans held at RHS. They also performed for Rockville General Hospital's dedication of the "Tree of Life".

### **CENTER ROAD SCHOOL:** Mrs. Mary Jo Myslinski, Principal

Center Road School enjoyed a productive and successful 2008–2009 school year with a continued emphasis on student achievement. Staff continued to work hard to improve academic achievement through professional development, the implementation of our School Instructional Plans, and the practices of Data Driven Decision Making/Data Teams. The collaboration of regular education, special education, and reading teachers is an integral part of the DDDM/Data Team model at Center Road School. Through this process, we are building a repertoire of successful teaching strategies and monitoring student progress closely. Teachers strive to implement our standards-based curricula with fidelity. Math was especially challenging this year because we rolled out a new program, Everyday Math.

Teachers as well as students learned a great deal. On an ongoing basis, teachers assess their students and use the information to make instructional decisions that help the children achieve our academic goals. This year, we began to learn about and plan the implementation of Connecticut's Response to Intervention model, Scientific Research Based Intervention (SRBI), which will help us become even better at supporting children's needs. Our Mastery Test results and our ongoing data reflect that our efforts are successful. This year, we once again met the "No Child Left Behind" AYP guidelines.

Several programs and practices continued to support student learning on a daily basis. Several early intervention programs were offered to kindergarteners including extended day, a beginning reading program called BRIDGE, and START, a phonics program. All kindergarten students worked daily on Waterford, a computer-based program that supports literacy. In first grade, we continued our early intervention program known as TLC. All classrooms rotated through flex groups daily. TLC was also offered to second graders once again this year. Our guided reading initiative was expanded to include all grade levels, first through fifth. Superflex groups in reading and math in grades 2 through 5 once a week continued to be a valuable practice and the use of paraprofessionals at all grade levels allowed us to work with individuals and small groups to meet students' needs. Center Road School also offered learning opportunities that go beyond the curriculum. These included Vernon Reads, Word Masters, Math Olympiads, Invention Convention, novel groups, and accelerated reader.

Extra curricular activities continued to round out the children's school experience including Safety Patrol, Service Club, Roadrunners Jogging Club, Writers Club, the school newspaper, the yearbook, chorus, and band. In addition, several fifth grade students participated in the CAS sponsored Leadership Conference and Marine Science Day. After school, several intramural activities including soccer, basketball, and softball were offered to fourth and fifth grade boys and girls.

Our character education/behavior improvement program, "Be The Best That You Can Be", remained an important component of Center Road's educational experience. In addition to regular morning meetings in all classrooms, we had school wide meetings monthly that introduced the character trait of the month, emphasized community service, and highlighted student accomplishments. Thanks to support from the Vernon Drug and Alcohol Council, we have been able to provide Second Step (an anti-bullying program) materials to all grade levels. Our psychologist and social worker presented lessons on conflict/resolution, anti-bullying, and team building. Our low elements course and equipment, made possible by the Greater Hartford Jaycees through a grant, was used throughout the year as our low elements curriculum was implemented. Our Community Mentor Program continued to provide mentors who helped build self-esteem and strong character. All of these activities supported and enhanced our "Be The Best That You Can Be" program.

Parental involvement continued to be an integral component of Center Road's success. The PTO actively supported students and teachers in a number of different ways. They sponsored several cultural programs, supplemented the cost of field trips for each grade level, hosted evening activities for families such as the Ice Cream Social and Family Reading Night, maintained an ongoing reading program for students, conducted three major fundraisers, and coordinated countless hours of volunteers for classrooms and the library. In addition, parents also helped with the annual review of our Parental Involvement Guidelines. Rockville Bank, our business partner, promoted parental involvement by providing each family with a calendar magnet, to keep handy on their refrigerators that highlighted the school's events. Part of the strength of Center Road School comes from the valued support and involvement of our parents.

Thanks to a dedicated, hardworking staff committed to the overall well-being of its students, children who practiced responsibility and cooperation, and parents who stayed involved, Center Road School had a successful 2008-2009 school year.

**LAKE STREET SCHOOL - Mr. Robert Testa, Principal**

Lake Street School has continued to foster a learning environment built on academic and social growth. Our school community values the following character traits: Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Cooperative, and Be Safe. Staff, students, and families have worked hard at meeting the needs of all our community members. Numerous successful initiatives have been implemented including remedial small group instruction, enrichment programs, assembly programs and field experiences, all aimed at enhancing student learning.

To highlight one of our programs, our students have been involved in a Scientifically Research Based Intervention (SRBI) group focused on improving reading skills. Pre- and post-assessment data has demonstrated significant student growth. Our students have been involved in writing in all subject areas as well. We encourage our students to participate in writing opportunities within the community. This past year several students were published as part of the Journal Inquirer's Limerick Writing Contest. Also, our Math Olympiads team competed in math problem solving with teams from across the United States.

Our grade 5 "Student Leaders" proved to be an important part of our school community by serving as role models and active members of our school. They successfully organized several school-wide community service projects and served as leaders during our monthly school-wide morning meetings. They also organized after school fundraisers to supplement school field trips.

Parental involvement continued to be a key component of our school environment. The PTO was active throughout the year. The PTO's Playscape committee played an important part in the completion of our beautiful new playscape. This project was a community effort as the Town of Vernon, as well as businesses and community members, all worked together to build a safe place for our children to play. The PTO's education committee continued to enrich classroom learning by providing curricular-based assembly programs throughout the year. Parent volunteers assisted within our classrooms, helping all children achieve success. We are grateful for the many significant contributions our family members have made throughout the year.

**MAPLE STREET SCHOOL - Dr. Lois Possell, Principal**

Maple Street School's newly created mission statement was hung in the main entryway at the start of the 2008-2009 school year. The last line reads, "We will not give up until we find a way for every child to experience personal growth." In keeping with that mission, several new programs began in 2008-2009.

Maple Street School became a fully implemented Positive Behavior Support (PBS) school, revolving around four expectations – Be safe, Everyone cares, Always respectful, Responsible. These expectations were chanted in classrooms and at every school gathering. Students learned and practiced setting-specific rules (e.g., for the hallway) in keeping with those four expectations. Positive behavior was celebrated. Behavioral data was charted and analyzed.

Maple Street School provided many other opportunities for student growth including: a mentor program which paired staff with students in need of additional support and encouragement; a mentoring program that brought Rockville High School athletes to work with a group of second and third grade students; after-school tutoring; and the Vernon Reads Program which paired senior citizens with second

graders in need of additional reading support. Vernon Reads volunteers also worked with kindergarteners. After school groups were also run by the school's Family Resource Center. Fourth and fifth grade students participated in a musical.

Maple Street School began using the new mathematics program (Everyday Math) adopted by the district. Many teachers also helped pilot new reading series, one of which was adopted for use in 2009-2010. Maple Street will continue to search for innovative ways to meet the academic and social-emotional needs of a very diverse population.

#### **NORTHEAST SCHOOL - Mrs. Melissa DeLoreto, Principal**

The 2008-2009 school year was productive, successful and focused on student achievement. The school continued its traditions of student academic success, character development and a "family-friendly" environment. Our "Kids Under Construction" organizational structure continues to guide programs and policies. Its three major components SOAR (See Our Amazing Readers), Enrichment and Pride and Spirit were active throughout the year. Our motto was "Saddle Up and Read Book-a-roo" using a western theme. Emphasis on reading did not stop with the SOAR program. Northeast school had three extremely successful family reading nights. Families enjoyed the evening by reading, being read to, learning reading strategies and feasting on a potluck dinner. All families left the night with books to add to their home libraries. Early reading success was emphasized through Early Intervention for problem readers, sustained silent reading, matching individual reading abilities to appropriate books, and involvement with Vernon Reads, a program in which Vernon seniors volunteered after school hours to assist struggling readers.

Our Pride and Spirit component was also active, supporting our "Always Building Character", anti-bullying initiative. This year's theme was "A Good Citizen Roundup". Through our monthly Spirit Assemblies and classroom activities, students learned strategies to recognize and counteract bullying in their lives. Several enrichment opportunities were also made available for students: TLC (Terrific Learning Choices), a Fine Arts Evening, Math Olympiads, Science Fair, and several cultural programs sponsored by our PTO.

In keeping with our tradition of strong family involvement, many "whole school community" activities were conducted jointly with our PTO this year. Open House welcomed parents to the school and provided an overview of curriculum. The Ice Cream Social gave families the opportunity to gather with each other and staff in an informal setting. Our Family Dance gave everyone a chance to show off their "moves" on the dance floor. The Pizza Night/Science Fair involved voluntary presentations by more than 100 students. The Holiday Program included songs from various cultures and nations. Northeast School's annual Fun Fair allowed students and parents the opportunity to play games, win prizes, and even dunk their teachers and principal.

#### **SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL – Mr. Matthew Wlodarczyk, Principal**

The school year started off with brand new things – a renovated school, a new principal, and new swing sets. The swing sets included two new sets and a tire swing, procured through grants and donations by the PTO, and installed through the combined efforts of the PTO and an Eagle Scout project. This equipment is important to our school community and provides for healthy physical activity for our students and the community. Another healthy initiative that continued this past school year was the "Walk-to-School" program, which began on October 8. Children and adults enjoyed walking to school

and did a wonderful job. This program continued all throughout the school year twice per month. Early Birds continue to meet before school, encouraging physical activity twice each week for students.

Teachers worked tirelessly to assess students and instruct them to achieve at their highest level. As a part of our town-wide initiative for continuous improvement in instructional practice, a group of teachers and the new Principal, Matthew Wlodarczyk, participated in a two-day training for Decision Making for Results – Data Driven Decision Making and Data Teams. That training will help us use educational research and best practice to work as a team to teach our students. Additionally, vertical teams were established for the educators to focus on not only their own important grade-level work, but also what is needed for students as they progress across the grade levels. To support teacher professional development, an E2T2 grant was received for teachers to investigate and use technology to explore student data. The training was well received and may be expanded for the 2009-2010 school year.

An award winning Big Y commercial created at Skinner Road School had its debut – earning us 500,000 points to purchase much needed supplies for our school! Also, the school had the pleasure of working with Fox 61 to make a segment for their news program and the “Lammers vs. Lahmers Challenge.” The segment was a take-off of the popular Fox program, “Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader?” Participation in the taping was tied to our school-wide positive behavior program (our Community of Outstanding Leaders – COOL program) for the entire fifth grade.

Grade 4 and 5 student leaders, under the direction of the school psychologist, initiated a peer mediation program to help students resolve issues with their peers and work together to understand these issues in a different light. Also, there is great appreciation for the parent community and PTO for supporting the Skinner Road School children and ensuring our continued successes as a school community together!

#### **VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL - Dr. Beth Katz, Principal**

Mr. James Harrison, Assistant Principal  
Mr. Jason Magao, Assistant Principal

The beginning of the 2008-2009 school year brought many new staff to VCMS. Three new teachers joined the science department; Mrs. Wolfgang, Mrs. Weber, and Mr. Augustyn. Other departments also welcomed the following teachers: Mr. Lapointe in the technology department, Mrs. Grimaldi and Miss Riccio in the language arts department, Mrs. Cockerham in the special education department, Mrs. McManaman in the social studies department, Mr. Giansanti in the guidance department, and Mr. Magao as the new Assistant Principal. Sadly, we said goodbye to Mr. Wendus, a fine teacher who retired after 31 years of service in Vernon.

#### **PBS**

A committee worked on Positive Behavior Supports (PBS), a systems approach to establishing expected behaviors, teaching these behaviors, and recognizing the students who make the right choices. We will now use the acronym SOAR (Safety, Organization, Achievement, and Responsibility/Respect) with Eagle Pride for our PBS campaign, which will be implemented at the beginning of the upcoming school year.

### **Grade 6 Highlights**

Highlights from this year included 37 students who took part in the Junior Women's League Spelling Bee after which the winner and runner up represented VCMS in Portland, Connecticut at the state level. Students learned about positive peer interactions through classroom activities and they attended a performance given by recording artist Scooter Smiff.

Our students gained cultural awareness when they attended a performance by Ginga Brasileira Inc. a colorful, crowd-pleasing repertoire of Afro-Brazilian dances that fuse rhythmic music with high-energy gymnastics and martial arts. Students continued to participate in an interdisciplinary unit on the tropical rainforests of the world culminating with the sale of t-shirts to save over 50 acres of rain forest in Costa Rica.

Our students were also entertained by the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus. The day started with circus puzzles and mathematics activities such as estimating statistics about various animals. The show was great and was enjoyed by all.

### **Grade 7 Highlights**

The seventh grade also enjoyed a successful year involving many community and academic based ventures. A group of students, teachers, and parents attended the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walkathon and raised over \$850 for the JDRF. The Hartford Symphony Orchestra Quartet visited VCMS and performed six free concerts offered to Vernon through a grant from New Alliance Bank. Students once again participated in "Baking for Cornerstone" where they stayed after school to bake cookies, brownies, and pies for the Cornerstone Kitchen and Shelter. Students collected gently used and new books, which were donated to the Potter House.

Students were able to travel back in time when they participated in a Greek mythology day in which they role played and learned through hands-on activities.

One student's essay won one of only seven honorable mentions in the national Teachers Against Prejudice essay contest and another student's essay about stereotypes on television took first place (nationwide and China).

One team championed a cause deemed Nothing But Nets, a charity within the United Nations, which distributed low-cost insecticide-treated mosquito bed nets to families in central and southern Africa to help protect them from the biting mosquitoes while they sleep. They studied the disease as well as its impact on Africa and the world with activities in math, science, reading, and social studies. The entire team then participated in a service-learning project to raise funds for this charity by coordinating a basketball game between the VCMS boys' and girls' teams against a VCMS staff team and selling rubber bracelets to raise money.

### **Grade 8 Highlights**

A number of enrichment activities were offered in the areas of science and math as well as exposure to various cultures through languages and the arts. Science students were challenged with a bridge-building activity using toothpicks and different designs were tested for strength and endurance. One group of students attended the Multiply Your Options Conference at UCONN to learn about different

careers which are centered on mathematics, and another group of seventh and eighth grade students took part in Math Counts, ten of which went on to represent VCMS and compete at the University of Hartford. Students enjoyed and benefited from their educational field trip to the University of Connecticut and the Merrow Corn Maze. Mr. Owens organized an all-day activity with a pop culture dance troupe to learn about different cultures and how to use dance instead of violence when attempting to resolve conflicts. An eighth grade student scored perfect in the American Mathematics Competition which is administered to every eighth graders who take Algebra. He was the only student in Connecticut to have a perfect score.

### **Bermuda Workshop**

Vernon students have participated in an intensive, one-week science trip to the Bermuda Biological Station for 40 years. This represents the longest continuously run program and the youngest group that uses the world-renowned scientific facility. Students continued with the work and observation of Whalebone Bay, which started over 12 years ago. Along with various snorkeling and organism projects, for the fourth year in a row the group had the opportunity to participate in a project at Cooper's Island. There, students worked for over three hours pulling up invasive plants and replanting indigenous ones.

### **Student Council**

The Student Council once again took on many community service projects including VCMS Supports Our Troops, where personal care items were collected and sent to our troops in the Middle East; the annual food drive, where food was collected for the Cornerstone Soup Kitchen; Thanksgiving baskets, where turkeys and other holiday dinner items were collected and baskets were prepared for families in need; and the Coats for Kids campaign, where warm winter coats were collected for local families that could not afford them. The Student Council Officers also participated in a leadership training conference at Quinnipiac College.

### **Above and Beyond After School Program**

The Above and Beyond program enjoyed another successful year. The students participated in a meaningful and structured homework hour with assistance as needed, which promoted academic improvement. Students were offered a choice of two enrichment activities to choose from each day following homework completion to build positive peer relations. The students raised over \$800 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital by selling "Bears of Hope" during their lunch waves. They also participated in the annual Fear Factor game modeled after the popular game show.

### **School to Career**

The School to Career activities included lectures, small group discussions, games, videos, computer research, and volunteer guest speakers. Some examples of the volunteers who offered information about their profession this past year were an accident reconstructionist, engineers, a flight nurse from Lifestar, a lawyer, several entrepreneurs, a financial advisor, an archaeologist and a pediatrician. A Career Day was held in June for the grade seven class. From a list of 32 careers, each student selected four presentations to attend. They learned about a "day in the life" of each career. The theme of this day was goal setting for the future.



**TALCOTTVILLE SCHOOL - Mrs. Patricia Buell, Principal**

During the 2008-09 School year Talcottville School educated approximately 15 students from grades 6-12. One student graduated from RHS through the Talcottville Program this year. Students attended Talcottville School anywhere from 45 minutes a day to full time. Students are enrolled at Talcottville to provide the emotional and academic support in a smaller learning environment that is behaviorally based. Students who attend Talcottville need the intense supervision and behavioral supports to manage daily stresses and make academic progress.

Teachers, a social worker and assistants support student achievement through small group or individual instruction at the students' levels. This year students were assessed during the first two weeks of school and placed in an intense reading program. The Language Program addressed many skills necessary to become stronger readers based on the baseline data. All students demonstrated significant growth when assessed mid year and at the end of the school year. In some areas, students demonstrated over one year's growth after half a year of instruction. Anecdotally, students demonstrated increased confidence and pride in their skills. After repeated failures in school, students began to feel more confident and successful.

This year Talcottville School closed after many years. The entire program was moved to a wing of Rockville High School. Staff and students had to adjust to this change. A significant amount of time and energy was devoted to preparing students and families for this move. Several school meetings were held to address questions and review expectations as the program moved to RHS. All stakeholders were not initially excited about this move but have since understood the need to change the program and focused on the positive aspects of being located at RHS.

As this year closed and the planning for next year began, there are some aspects of the program that are being reviewed. Staff have discussed at length the difference between the standard point system to monitor behaviors and an approach called Restitution. All staff members in the program were provided summer reading and two staff members were able to attend a district professional discussion about the book. The intent in reviewing this approach is to consider how we can enhance student investment in their behaviors and the impact of their behaviors on themselves and their learning community. This concept will continue to be discussed and integrated into the program as appropriate. The team also discussed how they could better prepare students for vocations beyond high school. The team has discussed ways to expand learning opportunities into skills or trades. The Language Reading Program will continue and data will be collected to monitor student achievement.

**ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – Mr. Brian Levesque, Principal**

Dr. Susan Andrews, Assistant Principal  
Mr. Eric Baim, Assistant Principal

The following are highlights from the 2008-2009 school year at Rockville High School:

Rockville High School underwent a major renovation the prior school year. The building now looks tremendous and the response from the public has been overwhelming.

The freshman academies continued to be successful in assisting students in their transition from the middle school to the high school level.

Data team meetings continued throughout the year to support student learning and to strengthen and enrich the curriculum.

Staff members, in conjunction with the students from the National Honor Society, donated over 200 new teddy bears and numerous toys to the Tri-Town Christmas Party during the December holidays.

The following curriculum highlights were noted in 2007-2008:

### **Agricultural Education**

Ninety students were enrolled in the Agricultural Education program this year. Over twenty students competed in Connecticut state level agriculture competitions. The First Grade Open House was held with approximately 300 Vernon first graders in attendance.

### **Athletics, Physical Education and Health**

Grade 10 student physical fitness scores improved from 41.5% to 45%. The Athletic Council provided opportunities and a forum for student leaders to voice their sports team issues. The addition of two new athletic proposals (a cooperative hockey team with Manchester High school and a boys' volleyball team) has been very positive.

### **Business and Computer Science**

The marketing course was so well received that more sections of the course were run this year. Once again, students were recognized by both Manchester Community College, as rising stars, and the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants, for their achievement in accounting and business. The office applications course successfully held a two-day round table discussion on careers. Local business people were invited to attend and participate in this program.

### **CHOICE Program**

Several area guest speakers representing different careers and businesses addressed the grade 11 career class. CHOICE sophomores and juniors toured Manchester Community College.

### **English**

Many students were recognized and received awards in several state and national writing contests. The creative writing classes held two poetry readings, produced an American Idol style poetry slam, wrote and performed an original murder mystery play that drew over 300 people, and wrote, directed and performed six one-act plays. A major revision of the RHS English as a Second Language program and curriculum Guide was completed the previous year and was a success.

### **Family and Consumer Sciences**

The Food for Today and Food Choices curricula were updated to reflect current research and information in culinary and dietary areas. Up-to-date curriculum performance and CTE standards were incorporated into the curriculum. Faculty and students participated in an Iron Chef Competition. The department catered several school events such as the School-to Business Breakfasts, the Ag Ed Luncheon, The Taste of Languages, and the High Honors Breakfast. Mrs. Lori Gilmore competed on "America's Top Chef" program.

### **Guidance**

The Guidance Department successfully completed its data team goal by completing 100% of freshman four-year plans. The Guidance Department successfully held several events during the school year

including open house, the tri-town college fair, financial planning night, college planning night, 8th grade orientation, high honor roll breakfast, the top ten scholar luncheon, undergraduate awards evening, and senior scholarship and awards evening. Over \$257,000 in scholarships was awarded to graduating seniors. Seventy-five incoming juniors and seniors were recruited as part of the LINK crew. The LINK program provides mentoring for all incoming 9th graders.

### **Mathematics**

Undergraduate student awards were given in the areas of Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra 2, and Pre-Calculus. One student award was given to the top math student for the past four years. The Math Team participated in the Capital Area Math League competitions with favorable results. Awards were given to the top scoring student in each grade level. Students competed in the American Mathematics Competition. DPT review classes were held, which resulted in a significantly higher success rate and a reduction in the number of students requiring the senior math course next year. Twenty students took the Calculus AB advanced placement exam. CAPT and SAT preparatory courses were offered to students. The College Pre-Calculus curriculum guide was implemented. Math courses were incorporated into the Freshman Academy for the first time this year.

### **Science**

Students participated in the Bermuda Aquarium, Museum and Zoo internship. Several projects were held throughout the year, such as Vernon "Greenways" Trail Managers, Braille Trail at Valley Falls, Bio-assessment in Vernon, and a 9th Grade Debate. Environmental Science classes assisted in the Rockville High School campus "clean up" project.

### **Social Studies**

A successful mock election was held with all Social Studies classes voting and practicing on the new voting machines. A variety of interdisciplinary techniques was used in classes, including poetry, posters, videos, Power Point presentations, art, persuasive essays, and creative writing. Technology was incorporated into U.S. and World History classes to create historical newspapers. World History classes created inventions and made infomercials for the inventions. Freshman and sophomore teachers successfully implemented three more CAPT simulations into their course curriculum.

### **Special Education**

The Special Education Department continued to support an inclusive setting by offering extensive co-teaching assignments. A Special Education teacher was assigned to each freshman academy, offering input throughout the year. The department is in the process of expanding the transition services that are available to students with the goal of assisting each student in developing a portfolio prior to graduation. Special Education teachers successfully implemented Behavioral Intervention Plans throughout the school year when necessary – training was provided by the state.

### **Technology Education**

The department continued to move forward with the Automotive Services Excellence Program certification for Power Auto I & II courses to align with the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation in terms of curriculum expectations and standards. Work is continuing on updating curriculum in construction, electronics, and video production programs. The Technology and Art Departments had a successful first year with the "Video Production" class.

**World Languages**

The “Taste of Languages” community event was held in April with a record number of attendees. Seven students taught their heritage languages. A large number of students received awards (COLT Excellence, NECTFL, Alliance Award for Excellence, and Alliance Française). Thirty-one students took the National Spanish Exam, and several received certificates of distinction.

# HUMAN SERVICES

## Vernon Housing Authority

---

### **Board of Commissioners:**

Chairman, Mr. Peter Olson  
Vice Chairman, Mr. J. Michael O'Neil  
Commissioner, Mrs. Mary Lou Menard  
Commissioner, Mrs. Karen Roy-Guglielmi  
Commissioner, Mr. Walter Edwards

**Executive Director:** Jeffrey S. Arn, PHM

**Main Office Location:** 21 Court Street

**Leasing & Housing Choice Voucher Offices:** 114 Franklin Street

### **Responsibilities and Duties:**

The Housing Authority owns and operates 322 units of housing for seniors, frail elderly, disabled individuals and families in the Town of Vernon. The Housing Authority also administers 280 Housing Choice Vouchers within the Town. Additionally the agency administers 647 Federal Housing Choice Vouchers, State Rental Assistance Payments and Temporary Rental Assistance Payments through our State of Connecticut Department of Social Services Programs. Therefore, at year-end the Vernon Housing Authority was providing rental assistance and housing to nearly 1,250 families in and around the Town of Vernon.

### **Town of Vernon Housing Authority Owned Rental Properties:**

#### **Federally Funded & Subsidized Developments**

<b>Franklin Park West</b> , 114 Franklin Park West, Built 1964	64 Elderly Units
<b>Court Towers</b> , 21 Court Street, Built 1970	72 Elderly Units
<b>Scattered Sites</b> , Seven Properties	9 Family Units

#### **State Funded Developments**

<b>Franklin Park East</b> , Franklin Street, Built 1963	40 Elderly Units
<b>Windermere Court</b> , 29 Windermere Avenue, Built 1970	20 Elderly Units
<b>Grove Court</b> , 55 Grove Street, Built 1968	25 Elderly Units
<b>Grove Street Extension</b> , 55 Grove Street, Built 1977	29 Elderly Units

#### **State Funded Congregate Facility**

<b>Francis J. Pitkat Congregate Living Center</b> , 80 Franklin St.	43 Frail Elderly Units
---	------------------------

### **Summary of Activities:**

The Authority has undergone a transition in leadership in 2009. After over thirty years of service, Executive Director Catherine Melan retired from public service. On January 1, 2009, Jeffrey Arn became only the third Executive Director of the Vernon Housing Authority.

As part of the federal stimulus package, the Authority received additional funding to perform capital needs. These projects will include window and door replacements at Court Towers, Franklin Park East and Windermere Court as well as a sewer and site improvement project at Franklin Park West. Additionally, as part of the stimulus package the Authority has applied to convert the Franklin Park East and Windermere Court developments from State to Federal funding.

In July 2009, the Vernon Housing Authority celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Year in existence. A celebration was held at the Franklin Park East and West complexes. The festivities were attended by residents from all Vernon Housing Authority developments, past and present employees and we were honored by recognition from the Governor's Office, the Connecticut Legislature and the Mayor of Vernon. The Authority's Board of Commissioners would like to thank Town Officials and employees for their cooperation during the past year.

---

## North Central District Health

---

### **DEPARTMENT HEAD:**

William H. Blitz, M.P.H., M.U.P., R.S., Director of Health

### **LOCATION OF DEPARTMENT:**

375 Hartford Turnpike, Room 120

### **RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES:**

The North Central District Health Department provides Vernon with full-time health department services and is on call seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day for emergencies.

The Department is governed by a Board of Directors (Board of Health) in accordance with the General Statutes of Connecticut. Currently, Dr. Allen Caudullo, Dan Anderson, and David Skoczulek, serve as representatives to the Board. The Health Department is staffed by a Director of Public Health, a Chief of Environmental Services (both registered sanitarians), a Health Educator, nine sanitarians and a support staff of 2.5 clerical workers and a part-time bookkeeper. The Department has a Medical Advisor and contracts for auditing and legal services.

### **THE PRIMARY MISSION:**

The primary mission of the NCDHD is disease prevention, surveillance, and health promotion in the district's population. The District is responsible for programs in a number of areas including:

- Preventing epidemics and outbreaks of diseases; undertaking epidemiological investigations, follow-up and working to prevent the spread of communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases and the like.
- Inspection of restaurants, other food service establishments and facilities and the epidemiological investigations follow-up and prevention of the spread of food borne diseases.
- Safety inspections of schools, convalescent homes and other institutions.
- Water quality testing of bathing areas.
- Review, testing and approval of new septic systems, as well as the review and approval of plans for system repairs and/or expansion.

- Provision of laboratory testing of drinking water, paint samples for lead, blood, stool and other samples such as insects and birds as may be necessary in the investigation of outbreaks and illnesses.
- Investigation of complaints in regard to public health hazards, nuisances, rodent or insect control.
- Inspection of housing units in response to physicians' positive lead blood tests in children.
- The provision and support of health education and prevention programs.
- Monitoring the health status of the population.
- Assistance to the Department of Environmental Protection upon request for help in collection of samples or for follow-up or investigation of specific problems.
- Development and exercising plans for emergency response and mass dispensing of medications, anti-virals, and/or vaccines in response to natural and/or man made outbreaks.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

The Director continues to review all communicable disease reports from labs, physicians, and hospitals pertaining to residents of Vernon and follows up on any cases that need to be followed to stop any potential transmission. Vernon is served out of the Vernon office at 375 Hartford Turnpike, Room 120. Our main headquarters are in Enfield at 31 North Main Street.

In 2008-2009, North Central District Health Department offered Health Education programs open to residents of our District. These programs, held in towns throughout the North Central District, included 13 exercise programs, six Nutrition and Weight Management Programs, Fetal Infant Mortality Review Program and the Open Airways Asthma Program.

Exercise programs at North Central District Health Department are very successful in attracting older participants who would probably not consider joining a gym. Most participants are exercising two to three times a week, while some participants exercise more frequently by choosing to participate in more than one exercise class each session.

The 13 exercise programs included: five A.C.T.I.V.E. Classes (Activity Class To Improve Vitality in Everyone), one Intermediate Tai Chi Class, one Yoga Class, one Yoga/Pilates Class, one Relaxation Yoga with Pilates Class, Beginning and Intermediate Line Dancing, and two Splashin Action classes (water fitness).

Six Nutrition and Weight Management Programs were offered for residents 18 years and older. Programs were taught by a Registered Dietitian and were four or six weeks in length, meeting once a week for two hours. These programs focused on nutrition, behavior modification, exercise demonstration, recipes, fat, fiber, calcium and sodium information, along with a supermarket tour to learn about foods and their labels. The six-week program also included a cholesterol screening and a one-on-one hour consultation with the Registered Dietitian.

Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Program - the purpose of this program is to improve the health and well-being of women, children, and families in the towns of Manchester and Vernon. Safe Sleep Education, a sub-committee of FIMR, distributed materials on Safe Sleep. In the fall, a program was held on Back to Sleep: Does It Really Make A Difference/SIDS Prevention in Your Home and Daycare. The program was well attended, helping to educate day care providers.

Open Airways - the Regional Asthma Coalition, which we are a part of, received a grant to train school nurses in the Open Airways Asthma Program. This program consists of six lessons that teach children what causes asthma episodes and how to manage them. Two school nurses from Vernon were train in the Open Airways Program.

All Health Education programs are open to residents in our member towns.

West Nile Virus, Lyme disease, and rabies are subjects of continued surveillance by the department with advice to the public on prevention on our web site ([www.ncdhd.org](http://www.ncdhd.org)) along with application forms for permits, links to related sites on Public Health and other information about our services and current public health news.

As stated last year, we continue to meet our Emergency Response/Bioterrorism Grant requirements for equipment, support, planning activities, exercises, and drills. During the year, staff attended training on the Red Plan, MEDSAT satellite communications, and state training courses from the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Numerous state committees and local town meetings are attended throughout the year. Scheduled meetings occur on a regular basis within any given month not including those unscheduled. Those attended include Advisory Council meetings within each town, Region 3 RESF8 (Public Health and Medical Services), CREPC ESF 8 Public Health Sub-Committee, DEHMS Region 4 ESF-8 Sub-Committee meeting, Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) meetings and numerous training and exercise work groups: All of which benefit the preparedness level of every town by gaining knowledge and experience.

Major drill exercises this year included the participation, including each phase/step, within an H1N1 outbreak emergency called Autumn Storm. Regional coordination and an ice storm have been the focus of the drill to include some other injects. Autumn Storm began in April 2009 and will be finished early 2010 with a functional drill.

North Central District Health Department will also be hosting its own drill, which will be focusing on Points of Dispensing and the logistics of the process. The planning stages began last May with collaboration from Yale University. Local stakeholders and health department employees will be included in this drill and table top exercise. This drill will also encompass the release of the revised version of our Mass Dispensing Plan for Region 3.

New efforts to recruit clinical and non-clinical personnel in all participating towns will always be a priority throughout the year. This year alone, we have recruited approximately 30 new volunteers adding to the already growing list of 280.

## **SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ACTIVITY**

A review of the environmental services activity report for 2008-2009 indicates that the economic downturn has affected the housing industry throughout the Health District, including Vernon, while plans reviewed and permits issued in Vernon were similar to last years numbers.

While construction activities have slowed, the enactment of new/revised regulations by the State of Connecticut and the subsequent enforcement of the same by the District has kept the environmental staff busy with other work:



**Virginia Graeme Baker Act** passed by the federal government went into effect in late 2008. This required all public swimming pools to install anti-suction drain covers and/or automatic shut-off systems, where applicable, to prevent entrapment of bathers. All the public pools in Vernon were inspected this spring to ensure compliance.

**Lead Paint** - New regulations pertaining to lead paint took effect in 2008/2009.

**Day Care Facilities** located in older buildings are now required to do a comprehensive lead inspection to identify potential sources of lead. Subsequent mitigation or abatement of the source is required with follow-up inspections.

**Blood Lead Levels** - New regulations took effect requiring all children under the age of six years old to have their blood tested for lead. This regulation also lowered the action level of the blood's lead level where the local health department must start an epidemiological investigation and conduct follow-up inspections of the possible source of the lead poisoning. With the change of regulations, it is anticipated that more inspections will be required in the coming year.

**Technical Standards** - The Connecticut Public Health Department, Sewage Disposal Section, revised the technical construction standards for the installation of septic system. Staff attended training sessions.

**Farmers Markets** - Connecticut Department of Public Health, Food Protection Program, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Consumer Protection jointly sponsored a 2009 Farmer's Market Reference Guide for local health departments to use when reviewing food service operations at Farmer's Markets.

**Barber Shops, Beauty & Nail Salons** - The Health District enacted Barber Shop, Beauty Salon and Nail Salon Regulations pursuant to state statutes to license and inspect these salon facilities. In Vernon, 37 salons were inspected and licensed this past year.

Staff personnel have also reviewed plans for new salons in the District to ensure compliance with the regulations and licensing requirements.

The resurgence of bed bugs has resulted in the need for staff to conduct more thorough hotel/motel inspections. A number of complaints from rental units have been received from throughout the Health District jurisdiction. Our staff attended meetings with Social Services, Housing Code Enforcement officials, and other local social workers who aid population where bed bugs might be encountered.

The District inspects complaints related to housing, trash, rodents and insects, sewage and water quality, and the food service industry (restaurants, etc.).

One of the district's functions in Vernon are the licensing and inspection of food service facilities providing protection against food borne illness to the public. 118 facilities were licensed during this period with 255 inspections conducted. 17 plans and their related inspections were submitted for review for new or renovations to existing food service facilities.

During the past year, we received 58 temporary event permit applications. Each temporary event application received by our office is evaluated by a staff inspector. Depending on the complexity of the proposed food service, our department will inspect evening and weekend events as needed.

The Health District is responsible for conducting follow-up interviews and on some occasions, follow-up inspections related to possible food borne illness. The food borne alerts form (single cases) and the enteric disease interview forms (confirmed cases) are both confidential and are submitted to the State Health Department for review.

In addition to routine food service inspections, well water supply reviews for food service and other related food service inspections, we respond to and investigate food related complaints and possible food borne illness reports received by the department. The department also responds to, and provides follow-up to, certain food recalls.

The water quality (bacteria levels) at Valley Falls Park, Camp New Hoca and New Hoca Park (Bolton Lake) are monitored by our Department. Water samples taken at the beach are sent to the State Health Department Laboratory for testing. The water samples again have tested satisfactory for swimming.

The inspections and investigations are listed on the following pages. It should be noted that raw numbers are no indication of time spent or the relative complexity of inspections; therefore, a comparison is only possible in the most general sense.

**Vernon Inspections  
July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009**

Type of Inspection	Numbers
Swimming Pools	16
Hotel/Motel	4
Day Cares	9
Schools	8 public schools
Salons	37
Bathing Beach Sampling Valley Falls Park Camp New Hoca & New Hoca Park	approximately 70 samples per season
Lead <10ug/dL = 24 10-14 ug/dL = 3 15-19 ug/dL = 0 (starting 2009 - housing inspection required) 20+ ug/dL = 0 (housing inspection required)	

**North Central District Health Department  
Vernon Year End Report 2008-2009**

	2007-2008	2008-2009
Soil Tests (Total)	8	7
New	1	1
Repair	7	6
Septic Permits		
New	1	2
Repair	6	5
Septic Inspections	20	21
	9	
Well Permits	9	8
Additions Reviews (on well/septic)	77	52
Plans Reviewed		
Subdivisions (Total Lots)	1/16	2/4
New Plot Plans	10	10
Repairs	7	-
Wells Only	-	2
Well Water Test Reviews	5	8
Permits to Discharge	4	2
Food Licenses Issued	111	118
Temporary Food Permits	54	58
Food Service Inspections	326	255
Plans Reviewed for Food	8	17
Food Orders Issued	64	58
Complaints (Total)	156	160
Garbage & Refuse	25	35
Housing	70	60
Rodents & Insects	11	16
Sewage Overflow	12	18
Water Quality	2	1
Food Complaints	27	22
Miscellaneous	9	4
Complaint Orders Sent	13	33

---

## Senior Center

---

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:**

Penny Rand, Director

**LOCATION OF DEPARTMENT:**

26 Park Place

**STAFF:**

The Vernon Senior Center is staffed with a Director, Assistant Director, Secretary/Receptionist, Building Assistant, Senior Bus Driver, and Senior Car Driver. All of the staff is part-time.

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

The Senior Center is committed to assisting Vernon seniors by providing programs that meet their needs and address their concerns. Programs offered include:

- Opportunities for socialization, recreation, and learning
- Fitness and health programs and services
- Transportation
- Entertainment and trips
- Opportunities for volunteering and helping others
- Assistance with applications for services
- Information/referral to other agencies for services

**ACTIVITIES:**

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| • Card games - pinochle, double pinochle, bridge, and cribbage. | ▪ Senior Chorus     |
| • Mah Jongg, shuffleboard, and pool Tournaments                 | ▪ Bingo             |
| • One day and multi-day trips                                   | ▪ Chess             |
| • Knitting and crocheting                                       | ▪ Dominos           |
| • Folk and Ethnic Dance   | ▪ Scrabble          |
| • Line Dance  | ▪ Tai Chi           |
|   | ▪ Men's Golf League |

**INSTRUCTION/CLASSES:**

- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| ▪ Driver safety         | ▪ Colored pencil drawing |
| ▪ Tai Chi               | ▪ Yoga                   |
| ▪ Mah Jongg             | ▪ Exercise               |
| ▪ Folk and Ethnic Dance | ▪ Pool                   |
| ▪ Line Dance            | ▪ Dominos                |
| ▪ Acrylic painting      | ▪ Chess                  |

**SERVICES:**Transportation

- The senior bus provides transportation to bingo at the Center, shopping, “Out to Lunch” trips, and other trips/events.
- The senior car provides rides to medical appointments that are out of town.

Health Programs

- Blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol and hearing screenings, flu shots, and foot care

The State Municipal Agent for the Elderly

- The agent assists seniors in filling out the applications for various state/local benefits and living wills.

The State Rental Rebate ProgramAARP Income Tax preparation assistanceLibrary**INFORMATION/PRESENTATIONS:**

- Presentations on issues of interest/concern to seniors
- Written material – flyers and brochures

**REFERRALS TO OTHER AGENCIES:**

The Center has been designated by the North Central Area Agency on Aging as a “Community Focal Point” for seniors. If the Center does not provide a particular service that a senior needs, a referral is made to another agency for assistance.

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

The Center’s staff and seniors work with other local groups in an effort to establish the Senior Center as an integral part of the community.

The Center participates in town events such as Halloween Happenings and Dickens’ Day.

The Center’s staff coordinates with other Town of Vernon departments and local agencies providing services to seniors to insure that there is not a duplication of effort and identifying where services may be lacking. The Center is also a member of the Vernon Community Network.

The Senior Center provides opportunities for seniors to share their time and talents to reach out to the community and help others by:

- Providing entertainment. The Golden Steppers Dance Group has given performances in other Senior Centers, nursing homes, and other senior housing facilities. The Senior Chorus has also provided special performances.
- Assisting with blood drives and flu clinics.
- Assisting with Income Tax filings.

Each year, the seniors are invited by the Rockville Exchange Club to a great picnic, with bingo and entertainment, at Henry Park.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**

Volunteers are very important to the daily functioning of the Center. They serve in various ways, e.g. office support, activity leaders, and instructors. The Event Committee is very active in providing very special events that include luncheons and entertainment.

A Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon is held each year at the Center in recognition of their caring efforts.

**ADVISORY BOARD:**

The members of the Senior Center Advisory Board are appointed by the Mayor and meet once a month at the Center to discuss concerns or items of interest to the seniors. They act as “ambassadors” for the seniors and provide the Director with information and suggestions on various senior issues and the Center’s programs.

They organize fundraising events and decide how the proceeds of the fundraisers are to be spent to benefit the activities and programs of the Center.

**CONCLUSION:**

The needs and expectations of seniors are constantly changing. In addition to gathering information from the seniors, the Center’s staff works with local and state agencies dealing with senior issues. New programs and activities are developed on an ongoing basis as needs are identified.

The Senior Center is a valuable resource that the Town of Vernon provides to the seniors, their caregivers, and the community as a whole. The facility itself is beautiful and spacious and provides a warm, caring atmosphere. Everyone is welcome to stop by the Center any day, Monday through Thursday, from 9:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M., and Friday, from 9:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. for a “tour” of the Center and to learn about the activities and programs.

---

## Social Services

---

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:**

Paula Claydon, Director

**LOCATION OF DEPARTMENT:**

375 Hartford Turnpike, Room 117

**RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES:**

The Vernon Department of Social Services is a multi-service agency, which provides a variety of social service programs for its residents. The following is a summary of these programs:

**Assistant Municipal Agent for the Elderly** – The Department provides information about community resources & assists the elderly with applications for various benefit programs. The Department also offers health insurance counseling for seniors through the CHOICES program. 181 residents were served.

**Case Management & Crisis Intervention** – The Department provides both short term and long-term case management services, which include crisis intervention, benefit counseling, advocacy, information, and referral. 304 family & individual cases were served.

**Emergency Assistance** – Through the Salvation Army and the Non-GA Account, the Department provides limited emergency assistance to needy residents who do not qualify for other programs or assistance. 100 family & individual cases were served.

**Employment Services** – The Department provides individualized employment services and career counseling plus assists in applying for available resources to address other needs. 21 residents were served.

**Energy Assistance** –The Department completes Energy Assistance applications for those residents seeking the CEAP, SAFA and CHAP heating assistance programs. 825 applications were taken.

**Fuel Bank** - The Department administers the Tri-Town Fuel Bank and Operation Fuel, providing emergency fuel or utility assistance to residents in crisis. 105 families were assisted.

**Housing Rehabilitation** – The Department oversees this program, which provides low-income property owners with a deferred loan to address an urgent housing rehabilitation need. 7 residents were served.

**Information & Referral** –The Department provides information and referral for residents seeking social services. 1405 information and referrals were provided.

**Renter's Rebate** – The Department is an intake site for disabled & elderly residents who apply for the State Renters Tax Relief Program. The Department also takes the applications for homebound residents. 579 residents were served.

**Seasonal/Special Programs** – The Department provides a variety of seasonal & special programs. Seasonal programs include Back to School Clothes, Toys for Tots, Boots & Shoes Program, and Foodshare's Surplus Food. Special Programs include community baby shower, educational workshops, & informational sessions. 495 family & individual cases were served.

**Summer Camp Programs** – The Department in conjunction with the Parks & Recreation Department certifies low-income families for reduced summer recreational fees. The Department also sponsors camperships to Camp ConnRI, The Salvation Army Camp. 93 children were served.

**Utility Arrearage Forgiveness Program** - The Department assists residents in applying for the Northeast Utilities and/or the Yankee Gas Arrearage Forgiveness Programs. The Department offers budget counseling to residents experiencing difficulty in budgeting. 63 residents were served.

**Volunteer Income Tax Assistance** – The Department served as a VITA site filing income tax return for low-income residents. 95 residents were served.

---

## Youth Services

---

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:**

Alan M. Slobodien

**LOCATION OF DEPARTMENT:**

9 Elm Street

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

The Vernon Youth Services Bureau (YSB) is a community based agency dedicated to providing education, information and referral, prevention, intervention, and crisis services which promote the health and well being of youth and families in Vernon.

The YSB has the charge of coordinating the continuum of youth services within Vernon. According to §10-19m of the Connecticut General Statutes, *“Youth Service Bureau means an agency operated directly by one or more municipalities or a private agency designated to act as an agent of one or more municipalities for the purpose of evaluation, planning, coordination and implementation of prevention, intervention and treatment services for delinquent, pre-delinquent, pregnant, parenting and troubled youth, and for the provision of opportunities for youth to develop positively and to function as responsible members of their communities.”* These functions include: Management and Administration, Needs Assessment, Community Resource Development, and Community Involvement and Advocacy. In addition, the YSB provides direct service programs such as the Truancy Intervention Program, After School and Summer Programs, Youth Employment, Summer Nutrition and Peer Advocate Programs. Through developing a network of strong cooperative working relationships, the YSB takes the lead in positive youth development initiatives and works closely with other service providers that include non-profit agencies, town departments, and the Vernon Public Schools.

The YSB provided individual services through its Truancy Intervention and Peer Advocate Programs to 155 youths, focusing on issues that include physical abuse, substance abuse, pregnancy, mental health, homelessness, school problems, and family issues.

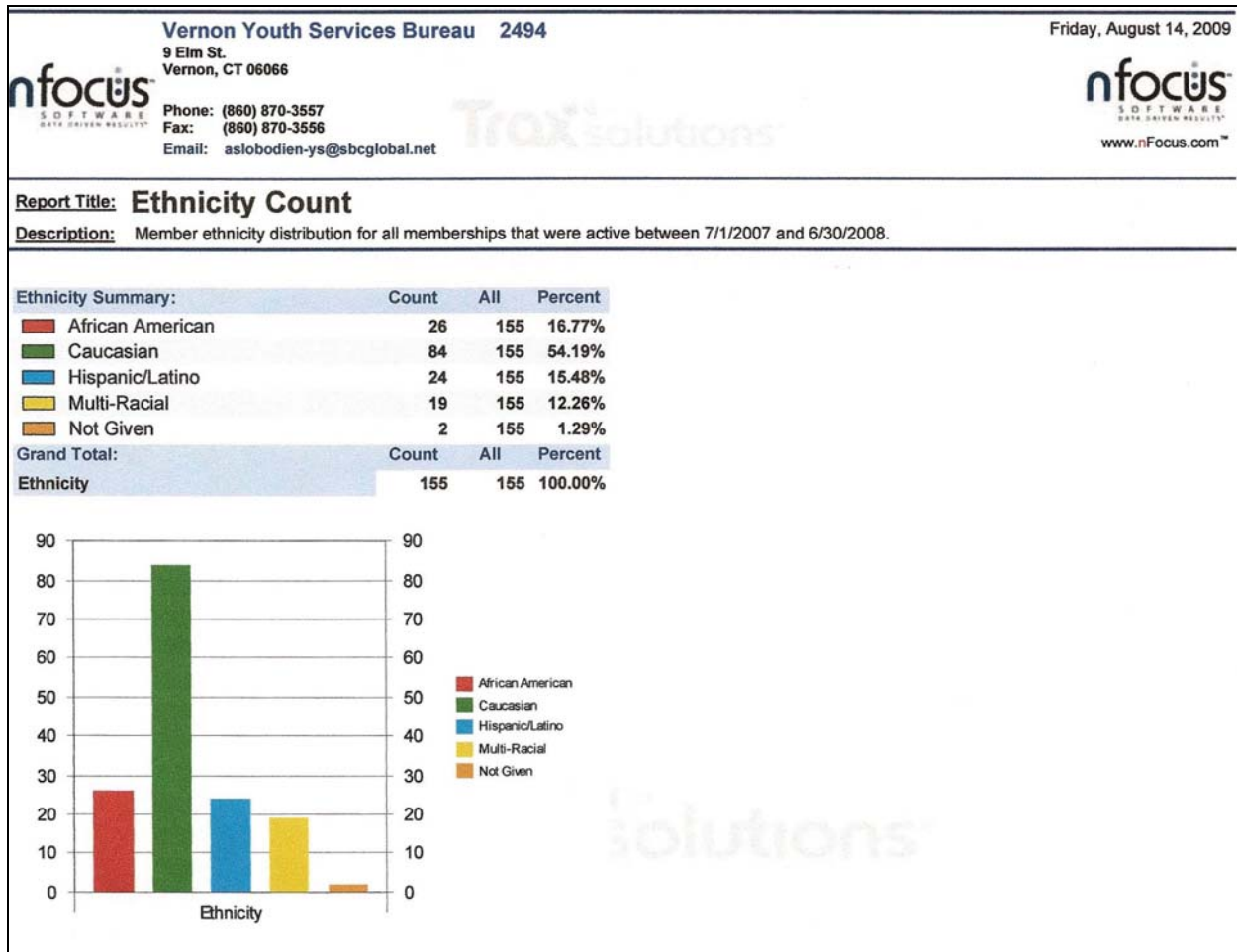
The Youth Services Bureau provides the following core Programs and Services: Youth and Family Advocacy, Peer Advocacy, Crisis Intervention, Truancy Intervention, After-School & Summer Program, Information & Referral Services, Community Mobilization Projects, Summer Nutrition Program and Youth Employment.

**Key partners include:**

Vernon Public Schools  
Indian Valley YMCA  
Hockanum Valley Community Council  
Union Congregational Church  
Vernon Police  
Vernon Social Services  
KIDSAFE CT  
PTOs  
Superior Court, Juvenile Matters  
Parks and Recreation Department  
ECHN Family Resource Center

Vernon School Readiness Collaborative  
Vernon Drug and Alcohol Prevention Council  
Rockville Hospital  
State Department of Education  
ERASE  
Local Service Organizations  
Capital Region Workforce Development Board  
CT Youth Services Association  
Vernon Community Network  
Vernon Citizens  
Rockville Community Alliance





## MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

### Building

**Department Head:**

B. Peter Hobbs, Building Official

**Location of Department:**

55 West Main Street

**Responsibilities and Duties:**

Enforcement of the State Building Code and the Town Zoning Regulations.

**Mission Statement**

Provide solution-oriented services to the community through the application of professional skills, adopted plans, and standards, which facilitate the growth of the local economy and enhance the quality of life, and preserve the natural environment for current and future generations.

**Summary of Activities:**

1,466 permits were issued between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009, with an estimated construction cost of \$21,322,371.31. Of those, 25 were issued for single-family dwellings, with an estimated construction cost of \$3,050,546.00.

**Total building permit fees collected: \$270,136.18**

Of the total permit fees collected, any co fees or zoning review fees (for permit approval purposes) are included and obtained with the payment of the initial building permit application.

The Zoning Enforcement Officer has indicated that for the period July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009, a total of 19 Zoning Board of Appeals applications were received and a total of \$4,370.00 was collected; 11 zoning compliance letters have been prepared and a total of \$275.00 was collected; and 1 citation was issued and a total of \$150.00 was collected.

**Total zoning fees collected: \$4,795.00**

**Inspections:**

Approximately 422 inspections were performed each month, and an estimated 5,064 inspections were performed for the fiscal year (July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009).

---

## Engineering

---

**Department Head:**

Terry D. McCarthy, P.E., Town Engineer

**Location of Department:**

Town Hall Memorial Building - 1<sup>st</sup> floor Room 5

The mission of the Engineering Department is: (1) to provide accessible, dependable, and timely professional and technical services to all municipal departments, agencies, commissions, businesses, and residents; and (2) to operate a professional office with well-trained staff and modern equipment capable of being self sufficient, flexible, and adjustable to meet the challenge of the ever changing needs of the municipality in a cost effective manner.

**Department Responsibilities include:**

- Issuing Road excavation and driveway permits
- Providing field inspections of sanitary sewer installations
- Providing review of on going erosion and sedimentation control installations
- Providing staff support to the Inland Wetlands Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission
- Providing detailed technical reviews of site plan and subdivision plan submissions to the Inland Wetlands Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission
- Providing final site inspections on site development and subdivision construction
- Providing review, oversight and coordination with on going infrastructure improvements within the Town
- Provide timely assistance as necessary to Town Residents and Businesses.

From June 30, 2008 to July 1, 2009 the Engineering Department issued 41 road cut permits and 86 driveway permits resulting in \$6,350 of revenue to the Town. In addition, the Engineering Department performed inspections on 71 sanitary sewer installations.

**Significant infrastructure improvements ongoing within the Town include:**

- Bolton Road Reconstruction- Construction activities have been ongoing as part of the Roadway Bond Program. Construction will continue beyond 2009 to the Bolton Town Line. The first section was completed by VMS Construction Company. The remainder is being completed primarily by the Town's Department of Public Works. Included in the first section was the replacement of the Bolton Road Bridge over the Tankerhoosen River by the Pond View Construction Company.
- The Reconstruction of Vernon Avenue from South Street to Hartford Turnpike (Route 30). This project was designed by in Town's Engineering Department. Construction activities were inspected by the Connecticut Department of Transportation. Generally, the construction cost was funded 100% by the State.
- A \$500,000 grant was received from the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development through the Small Cities CDBG program to support funding for the reconstruction of approximately 1,700 feet of High Street. The balance of the costs were provided through the Town's Public Road Bond. It is anticipated that the Town's Department of Public Works will provide services for the reconstruction of the existing one-way section of High Street from Court Street to Cedar Street.
- The renovation of Central Park was completed with 100% State Funding.
- The Reconstruction of Center Road from Route 30 to Regan Road was completed with Public Road Bond funding.
- The Vernon Avenue Bridge was completed on schedule with a ribbon cutting scheduled for July 9, 2009. The project was funded with 80% State funds and 20% Town funds.

**Upcoming infrastructure projects within the Town include:**

- Replacement of the Spring Street Bridge and the River Street Bridge over the Hockanum River - It is anticipated that construction on both bridges will begin in the fall of 2009. These projects are funded 100% by State and Federal funds.
- West Main Street Bridge over the Hockanum River - Design on this project has been initiated. Funding is 80% State. The Town's share of 20% is provided in the Town's Road Bond Program.
- Phoenix Street Bridge over the Tankerhoosen River - Design and permitting processes for this bridge have been reinitiated with construction start scheduled for the Spring of 2010.
- Main Street Bridge over the Tankerhoosen River in Talcottville - The State has approved 80% funding for the design and construction associated with the replacement of the Main Street Bridge. It is anticipated that the Town will solicit design proposals from engineering firms in the winter of 2010.
- Historic Talcottville Improvements - This project is being funded through a \$500,000 grant from the State. It is anticipated that construction bids will be received in the fall of 2009 with a construction start in the spring of 2010.

- Roadway Bond Projects will continue throughout the fall of 2009 into the 2010 construction season - Roadways will include Prospect Street, Gaynor Place, Ironwood Drive, and Hatch Hill Road. Grants are being pursued by the Town from the Department of Economic and Community Development to supplement funding on the Reconstruction of Prospect Street. Both Ironwood Drive and Hatch Hill Road will be reconstructed by the Town's Department of Public Works.

---

## Parks and Recreation

---

### **DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

Bruce W. Dinnie, Director

Stephen E. Krajewski, Assistant Director

### **LOCATION OF DEPARTMENT:**

Lottie Fisk Building at Henry Park, 120 South Street;

Teen Center at Center 375 Hartford Turnpike

The Parks and Recreation Department has taken great strides to make your experience a positive one. One of those strides is to give you the option to register on-line.

### **On-Line Registration**

The Vernon Parks and Recreation now offers on-line registration and accepts credit card payments. All of the programs, activities and events are at your finger tips and available to view at your convenience. Visit the website at [www.vernon-ct.gov](http://www.vernon-ct.gov) and explore the Parks and Recreation Department's page to view the many new and exciting programs. Simply click on the toggle titled "Register On-line", create an account and you will be all set.

Another excellent service we offer is the REK after-school program. REK stands for Recreation and Education for Kids. This program is offered at Maple Street School, Skinner Road School and Center Road School. Some of the activities are homework time, fitness, nutrition, sports, arts and crafts, and other fun activities. A snack is provided daily. Our prices are extremely affordable. Come join the fun!

This Department has expanded programs for children and adults, offered new and exciting trips and have improved the traditional programs such as Summer Camps, Swim Lessons and Summer Highlights.

Our Department is very proud of the Special Events that are offered throughout the year for all ages. These events draw thousands of people each and every year.

As for our Maintenance crew, they continue to excel in making our Parks and Facilities the pride of Vernon. Besides all the baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse, and football fields that are maintained, they are responsible for all the Parks in Vernon such as Valley Falls, Henry Park, Community Field, Newhoca Park, Camp Newhoca and all of the school grounds.

The Teen Center attracts many teens (approximately 450) with its new ideas, programs, dances, and special events. This is a place 6th, 7th and 8th graders don't want to miss!

The Fox Hill Tower, located in Henry Park, which is open from May to November, continues to draw thousands of people to observe the beauty of this unique structure.

Remember, Parks and Recreation, where the benefits are endless...

The Parks and Recreation Department extend a sincere thank you to all volunteers and instructors of our many programs.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES**

The department maintains the following parks, schools, and Town greens encompassing 525 acres:

Henry Park	Legion Field	Talcott Park
Boulder Ridge Park	West Main St. Park	Central Park
Walker's Reservoir	Valley Falls	Newhoca Camp
Newhoca Park	Center 375	Hale St. Green
Phoenix Mill Park	Ecker Property/Volunteer Field	Rambling Ridge
Valley Falls Open Space	Paper Mill Pond Park	Dart Hill Park
Dart Hill North	Dart Hill North Ext.	Saxony Mill
Rockville High	VCMS	Northeast
Skinner Road	Lake Street	Maple Street
Center Road	Westside Veteran's Memorial	Lafayette Memorial
Ferguson Memorial	Rails to Trails	

### **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

36 <sup>th</sup> Annual Mother's Day Dash	44 <sup>th</sup> Annual Fishing Derby
23 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Earth Day	23 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Arbor Day
64 <sup>th</sup> Annual July in the Sky Fireworks	64 <sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Egg Hunt
24 <sup>th</sup> Annual Halloween Party	Volunteer Recognition Event
18 <sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Festival	13 <sup>th</sup> Annual Trails Day
Nat Schwedel Swim Meet	Gene Pitney Summer Concert Series
5 <sup>th</sup> Annual Comedy Night	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament
Vernon Community Festival	Cultural Art Series
National Night Out	Mayor's Fitness Challenge Cup
Holiday Decorating Contest	

### **TEEN CENTER EVENTS:**

American Red Cross Babysitting Training	Teen Dances
End of School Year Bash	Easter Egg Hunt
Bronx Zoo Trip	Special Needs Recreation
Earth Day Project	Ice Cream Social
Picnics	Billiard Tournaments
Children Halloween Boo Bash Party	Holiday Festival for Children
Arbor Day Project	Teen Center every Friday

### **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:** Summer Highlights and Camp Newhoca (680 children attended)

Open Swim	Over the Hill Basketball	Teen Camp
Learn to Swim (900 participants)	Senior Basketball League	Kiddie Camp
Swim Team	Community Garden Plots	Yoga
Aerobics	Pilates	Adult Softball
Softball Tournaments	Senior Softball	Women's Volleyball
Adult Volleyball	Co-Ed Volleyball	Adult Basketball
Adult Karate	Youth Basketball	Acting
Youth/Teen Karate	Cross Country Challenge	Dancing Tots

Learn to Dance	Modern Jazz	Preschool Fitness
Pee Wee Basketball	Pee Wee Soccer	Pee Wee Baseball
Tennis	Hotshot Contest	Baseball Camp
Berkshire East Ski	Basketball Camp	Ice Fishing Clinic
R.E.K. Afterschool Program	Baseball Trips	Body Sculpting
Bowling	Cheerleading	Fit Kids
Extended Day	Food Program	Golf
Grow with Me	Hip Hop Jazz	Kickball League
Dodgeball	Mother's w/Epileptic Children	Multi-Sport Camp
Newport, R.I. Trip	Pee Wee Fun	Radio City Trip
Sports Nutz	Sports Squirts Camp	Swim Prep Class
Tumbling	Stretch 'n Sweat	Vacation Camp
Track	Wrestling	Babysitting Training
Learn to speak Chinese	Vernon Social Group	How to Grieve
Family fun- Movie nights	Stuff with Fluff	Ballroom Dancing
Summer Concerts	Pre-engineering camp	Lego camp
Send a kid to camp	Holiday ornaments workshop	Tai Chi

#### **MAINTENANCE PROJECTS 2008-2009**

Camp Newhoca recreation hall renovated	New grills at many sites
Showmobile refurbished	New basketball poles at Legion Field
Batting cages and scoreboard installed at Legion Field	Community gardens squared off/permanent poles
Community Pool shade structures installed	New wooden gate at Valley Falls
Fox Hill Tower repairs	Community gardens road resurfaced
Central Park renovated	Teen Center repainted
Henry Park tennis courts re-surfaced	2 shade structures built at Newhoca Park
New door on maintenance garage	Historical areas marked out at Church Street
New peewee soccer goals built	Handicap ramp back of Valley Falls barn
Dangerous limbs removed-Lottie Fisk playscape	3 trees planted left side of Community Field
Dangerous limbs removed-Henry Park Picnic Grove	Gill Field renovated
Lights installed downstairs of Valley Falls barn	McCoy Field renovated
New lighting in maintenance garage	Filled and graded behind Legion football field
New pool main drains for Virginia Graham Baker Act	Repainted and sealed basketball court at Henry Park
Horowitz pool house floors reinforced	Rock with bronze plaque installed at Saxony Mills
Lake Street School Playscape completed	

---

## Planning

---

#### **DEPARTMENT HEAD:**

Leonard K. Tundermann, AICP, Town Planner

#### **LOCATION OF DEPARTMENT**

Town Hall - Memorial Building - 14 Park Place, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

The Planning Department assists the Land Use, Conservation, and Economic Development Commissions to adopt plans, policies, regulations, and programs to promote the sound long-range development of the community, which includes conservation of its natural resources, preservation of its historic

resources, and development of its economic base guided by the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development, Inland Wetland Regulations, Subdivision Regulations, and Zoning Regulations. These commissions include the Conservation Commission (CC), Design Review Commission (DRC), Economic Development Commission (EDC), Inland Wetlands Commission (IWC), Local Historic Properties Commission (LHPC), and Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC). The Planning Department advises property owners and developers about land use and development policies and regulations and assists them to improve development proposals to contribute to the sound development of the Town.

Department responsibilities include:

- Preparing meeting agendas for five of the commissions;
- Preparing legal notices for public hearings of the IWC and PZC and for decisions by those two commissions;
- Attending meeting of the six commissions and providing staff support at those meetings;
- Providing detailed technical reviews of plans and permits requested of the IWC, PZC, and providing summary information relevant to reviews by the CC, DRC, and LHPC;
- Preparing correspondence to applicants relative to the processing of their applications;
- Maintaining information about properties available to attract and retain businesses;
- Publicizing information in trade journals to attract businesses to Vernon;
- Entering application data into the Town's permit tracking system and maintaining files and records of development-related applications;
- Updating subdivision, zoning, and wetland regulations as warranted;
- Maintaining associations with various professional associations and agencies to further professional development, reap the benefits of networking, and represent Vernon with agencies such as the Capitol Region Council of Governments and the Metro Hartford Alliance;
- Providing timely assistance as requested to Town residents, business owners, appraisers, real estate professionals, and other Town officials and departments;
- Assisting the PZC in preparing a new plan of conservation and development for Vernon;
- Working with the GIS coordinator to develop enhanced geospatial data for use by the Planning Department and citizens;
- Preparing annual budgets for the Planning Department and for Economic Development.

From June 30, 2008 to July 1, 2009, the Planning Department's activities included the following:

- Processed 20 applications submitted to the PZC and 10 applications submitted to the IWC. Several of the PZC and IWC applications were also referred to and reviewed by the CC, DRC, and/or the LHPC;
- Reviewed and processed seven "minor modifications" to approved site plans;
- Represented the Town and participated on the technical advisory committee that oversaw preparation of the Tankerhoosen River Watershed Management Plan, a model plan for watershed management in Connecticut;
- Continued work on the Historic Talcottville Improvements project in conjunction with CT DOT and its consultant;
- Drafted and obtained approval of four significant revisions to the Vernon Zoning Regulations;
- Initiated a complete rewrite of the Vernon Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations to follow the DEP model municipal regulations;

---

## Public Works

---

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:**

David R. Tomko, Interim Director of Public Works

**LOCATION OF DEPARTMENT**

375 Hartford Turnpike

**RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES:**

The Public Works Department provides the residents of Vernon with a wide range of services, of which the demand grows with the steady residential and commercial development each year.

A Director oversees the Public Works Department with a Lead Foreman, two Road Foremen, a Refuse and Recycling Supervisor and a Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor who supervise forty-nine employees. An Administrative Secretary, an Administrative Clerk, and a Clerk Dispatcher staff the Public Works Office.

There are many priorities that the Public Works Department is responsible for. To name a few; the maintenance and repair of approximately 125 miles of town-owned roads; the maintenance and repair of all storm sewers on town-owned roads and right-of-ways; refuse and recycling collection; all traffic line painting and street sign maintenance; snow and ice removal; bridge inspection and maintenance; and the general maintenance of twenty-three town owned buildings and properties.

The Public Works Department also provides several special services for the residents, such as the scheduled bulky waste pickup year round and fall leaf collection.

Another service that most residents are unaware of is that the Public Works Department is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for all department related emergencies, such as blocked storm sewers, flooding during rain storms, road related problems and assisting the Police and Fire Departments during their emergencies. We have a dedicated hot line for your request at 860-870-3506.

Last year the Public Works Department handled over 25,000 phone calls ranging from emergencies, complaints, to general information.

As a community service, the Public Works Department plays an active roll in assisting various local organizations, such as, the Chamber of Commerce, various beautification programs, school groups, and social groups.

The Public Works Department operating hours are 7:00 AM thru 3:30 PM Monday through Friday.

**Summary of Activities:**

**Building and Grounds:** The principal function is to provide for the maintenance, repair and operational expenditures of Town buildings and grounds. Upgrading and maintaining public buildings in a manner, which is both functional and attractive, is the primary goal of the Public Works Department.

There are two maintainers for all building repairs and maintenance and one custodian located at the Town Hall.



Major projects that were undertaken in 2008-2009, were: Fire House # 5 received a new furnace; the Police Department had three new air conditioning units installed; a new master clock; air handler was rebuilt; and new carpeting installed; Fire House # 1 had a new roof installed; Senior Center had a new electronic door security system installed; Town Hall had the heating system upgrade; several town offices were repainted and had carpeting installed; two restrooms were renovated at Firehouse # 1.

**Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance:** The Public Works Department maintains all department equipment along with equipment from the Park and Recreation Department, Engineering Department, Building Department, Tax Assessor, Fire Department, Fire Marshall, Police Department and Senior Center in the vehicle maintenance facility, located at 383 Hartford Turnpike. In this facility, four mechanics and one part time employee, perform all major vehicle rebuilding and preventive maintenance on 225 major vehicles as well as 290 smaller machines, such as asphalt rollers, leaf machines, snowplows, pumps and mowers.

The department's four mechanics perform such tasks as welding, total engine and transmission rebuilding, scheduled preventative maintenance on all equipment, and complete equipment restoration and overhaul. They are also responsible for the maintenance of all emergency generators that are located in several Town buildings.

The following equipment was purchased in 2008-2009 - one-ton asphalt roller and trailer at \$16,600.00, ten-ton tag along trailer at \$17,124.00, and eleven chemical control systems for plow trucks to control the amount of chemicals used for snow and ice removal at \$69,080.00.

**Bridges:** All bridges are inspected during the year and Public Works handle any problems that arise. Examples are the inspection before and after heavy rain to remove any debris that will restrict the flow of water, repair any undermining or washouts caused by heavy rains, inspecting all railings, fences or guard rails for damage and painting. The Vernon Avenue Bridge was recently reopened after total reconstruction, the Spring Bridge is currently being replaced, and the River Street Bridge is ready to go out for bidding.

**Sweeping:** All town owned roads were swept with a total of 675 cubic yards of sand was recovered that was used for snow and ice removal. Also, in an effort to reduce the amount of sediment the Public Works Department is currently in the process of trying different anti-icing products and has reduced the amount of sand being used.

**Drainage:** The Public Works employees cleaned a total of 150 catch basins at various locations, with another 42 basins being repaired or replaced.

Several roads had work done to correct run off to prevent property damage or ice build up in the winter months.

Bolton Road is in the final stages of being totally reconstructed to improve drainage and road surface.

**Trees:** A total of 23 trees were removed by private contractors on town owned property that were either dead or obstructing sight lines. There were another 11 trees removed by the Public Works personnel for the same reasons. A total of 3 tree stumps were either removed. A total of 53 trees received pruning and trimming and 5 trees were planted at various locations. Several weeks of

trimming of damaged branches, caused from winter storms, was necessary to prevent injury to pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

**Snow:** The winter of 2008-2009 produced fifteen named storms. A total of 1,364.5 tons of salt, 1,315 tons of sand and 29,582 gallons of liquid calcium chloride were used to keep the roads safe for vehicle use.

All Town owned streets, school parking areas and playgrounds, Town owned parking areas, Town buildings and town owned sidewalks, were cleared of snow and ice, and sanded using the Department's fifteen trucks and three front-end loaders.

**Leaf Collection:** The Public Works Department spent a total of 35 days collecting 17,931 cubic yards of leaves on town owned streets. A total of \$135,184.50 for labor and fuel was spent for this service.

**Refuse and Recycling:** The Vernon Transfer Station continues to offer Vernon residents an affordable disposal option for most unwanted household items. 1,641 tons of bulky waste was received in 2008-2009. Metal items discarded equaled 286 tons including 306 appliances containing Freon gas, which was safely removed before disposal. Three trailer loads totaling 1,000 times were recycled. Residents also recycled 290 lead acid batteries. There were 3,650 gallons of waste oil and 100 gallons of antifreeze received at the facility for recycling.

The brush disposal program in Vernon is true recycling - 5,000 cubic yards of incoming brush were processed into a mulch product, which in turn was offered back to residents free of charge. The Christmas tree curbside collection and tree drop off yielded, 2,500 trees, which were also processed into mulch.

Other programs offered to residents include the free drop-off of electronics and metal items at various times throughout the year. Electronic recycling continues to increase. In 2008-2009, 203 tons of electronics were safely removed from the waste stream and recycled.

Improvements to the facility include a bulky waste ramp, with four 30-yard containers for resident use.

The Town's hazardous waste program saw 213 carloads of household hazardous waste brought to the CREOC facility in Manchester.

The weekly scheduled bulk pick-up program for bulky waste and metal generated \$12,620 in additional revenue for the Town of Vernon. A total of 254 collections were scheduled.

In October of 2008, the Town of Vernon converted to a single stream collection method for recyclables. Total tonnage collected of plastics, tin and paper products, including cardboard was 2,041 tons in 2008-2009.

# PUBLIC SAFETY

---

## Animal Control

---

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:**

Craig P. Segar, Animal Control Officer

Jerold W. Casida II, Assistant Animal Control Officer

**LOCATION OF DEPARTMENT:**

100 Windsorville Road (adjacent to the Water Pollution Control Facility)

**RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES:**

The officers within the Animal Control Department enforce state laws and town ordinances pertaining to animals. This department also responds to complaints involving sick wildlife. Current law requires that all dogs and cats over three months of age be immunized against rabies. The chances of you coming into contact with a rabid animal (raccoon, skunk, fox, bat) are not that great, but the chances of your pet dog or cat coming into contact are much greater. It is imperative that you keep your pet's rabies shots up to date so that the threat of rabies exposure to you and your pet will be greatly diminished. Before a dog can be licensed, a valid rabies certificate must be shown to the Town Clerk.

**SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:**

During the fiscal year 2008-2009, the Animal Control Department responded to 1,413 complaints. Of these complaints, 69 involved raccoons, 395 involved cats, 656 involved dogs, and 293 involved other animals. We impounded 248 cats/kittens and 140 dogs/puppies. Of the cats/kittens/dogs/puppies that we handled during this fiscal year, 105 were redeemed back to their owners, 134 were adopted to new owners, 60 were found deceased, and 62 were euthanized. This department tested 22 animals for rabies, and 2 tested positive for the disease - one was a raccoon, and the other was a woodchuck. For an animal to be tested for rabies it had to have had contact with a domestic animal and/or a person. On June 6, 2009, this department held a rabies clinic at the Animal Control Facility from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. We inoculated 15 animals.

---

## Fire

---

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:**

William M. Call, Fire Chief

**DEPARTMENT STAFF:**

Steven Eppler, Assistant Chief, Operations

Stanley Landry, Assistant Chief, Personnel

Christopher Hammick, Health and Safety Officer

Ray Walker, Fire Marshal

Michael Purcaro, Director, Emergency Management

**LOCATIONS OF STATIONS:**

Vernon Center Station, 720 Hartford Turnpike

Dobsonville Station, Birch Road  
Talcottville Station, 100 Hartford Turnpike  
John Ashe Station, Nye Street  
Fitton Station, Prospect Street  
Public Safety Building, 280 West Street

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES:**

The Town of Vernon Fire Department is a volunteer service agency that provides Fire, Rescue, Hazardous Materials, and Basic Life Support Transport Emergency Medical Services to the community. The Department provides those services utilizing 6 stations and approximately 212 members. There are 150 line firefighters, 11 special service members, 40 ambulance members, and 8 auxiliary members. The Department operates 6 engines, 2 heavy rescues, 2 aerial trucks, 1 mobile air unit, 3 ambulances, 1 command unit and 1 pickup with trailer. We also operate a special hazards vehicle and decontamination unit by the State of Connecticut, and operate 2 ATV units that are firefighting and EMS transport equipped. In 2008 - 2009 the Fire Department's budget was approximately \$1,091,794 of which approximately \$615,000.00 went directly to the Connecticut Water Company for the use and maintenance of all fire hydrants in the community.

The Vernon Ambulance is a division of the Fire Department. They are charged with providing Basic Life Support transport service for the community. Service is provided 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The service utilizes two state-certified ambulances that are available at the Public Safety Building. A third state-certified ambulance is available as a back-up at the Vernon Center Station on Hartford Turnpike. In 2009, the ambulance division's budget was approximately \$1,158,192.00. Income generated from billing for services was expected to be approximately \$1,200,000.00 for the same period.

The Ambulance Division has been the busiest entity of the Department, with 86% of all calls for EMS service. It is supervised on a part-time basis by Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Jean Gauthier. EMT Clint Marth was hired in 2006 to work as her part-time assistant. Together they manage the everyday scheduling and administrative functions of the service. On most days, the ambulance is staffed full-time from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., and a second ambulance is staffed from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. These crews are paid hourly (non-benefited) for their time. Nights and weekends are covered with at least one ambulance fully staffed, and crews are also paid an hourly wage for their time. There are no full-time employees, and only the two supervisors are considered part-time Town employees.

The major statistics for the Fire Department for fiscal year 2008-2009 included:

- Total Fires – 96
- Hazardous Conditions – 97
- Service Calls – 89
- Good Intent Calls – 94
- False Alarms – 177
- Weather Emergencies – 5

In 2008-2009, the ambulances responded to a total 3,070 calls, with an average response time for emergency calls of 6 minutes, while the state average is 10 minutes. The Fire Department also maintains an independent annual report with more detailed information from each of its twelve divisions.

---

# Fire Marshal

---

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:**

Raymond Walker, Fire Marshal

**DEPARTMENT LOCATION:**

55 West Main Street

**SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:**

The Vernon Fire Marshal's Office was in transition during FY 2008-2009. Fire Marshal Dave Roth retired as FY 07-08 closed, and a new Fire Marshal was hired starting in mid summer. During this time, the office operated under the guidance of two newly appointed Deputy Fire Marshals. The new Deputies, Stan Landry and Christian Frezza, are both members of the Town of Vernon Fire Department and are career fire service members in other communities.

The new Fire Marshal, Ray Walker, was appointed and brought to the office a career in fire prevention work that started as a firefighter locally with then Rockville Fire Department.

The Office transition continued through the close of FY 2008-2009 with the Office developing partnerships with the Fire Dept. and the Building Dept. As a result, periodic alerts are sent to the Fire Dept. concerning immediate fire and life safety hazards, the Office and the Fire Dept. conduct periodic joint day inspections and pre fire planning tours of target hazards, and customer service delivery has been improved with the sharing of services with the Building Dept. Also, the Deputy Fire Marshals have shifted their focus from fire scene investigations to inspections and code enforcement as a tool to prevent fires from occurring.

Additionally, the Fire Marshal's Office and several other Town Departments involved with land use, inspections, and property issues began to implement a new software program for permitting and inspections. As part of these preparations, the Office has developed inspection schedules, code compliance forms, and property checklists. These will serve not only to enable implementation of the software but will also prepare the Office and the community for the implementation of new fire code changes at the state level that will impact fire prevention services. These changes will occur between 2009 and 2012.

The Office provides a 24/7 emergency response capability through the efforts and commitment of the Fire Marshal and the Deputies. In FY 08-09 this Office developed a mutual assistance program with the South Windsor Fire Marshal to help assure a fuller and more robust 24/7 response capability.

---

# Police

---

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:**

Chief James Kenny

**LOCATION OF DEPARTMENT:**

725 Hartford Turnpike

**RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES:**

The Police Department of the Town of Vernon is charged with the mission of the preservation of the peace and the protection of the citizens and their property. We are tasked with the detection of crime and the apprehension of offenders, resolution of conflict and to assist those who cannot care for themselves.

**GOALS OF THE DEPARTMENT:**

1. Maintain adequate staffing levels to facilitate our mission.
2. Continue our community interaction through community-based programs.
3. Improve the safety of our streets through targeted traffic enforcement activities.
4. Collaborate with local and state officials to improve the quality of life for all residents.

**SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:**

The fiscal year 2008 - 2009 saw several personnel changes. Officers Eric Pagel and Darrin Tranter retired after 20 years of service to the Town of Vernon. The Department welcomed several new additions as Officers Lagase, Sembursky and Munson each began their careers with the town during the fiscal year. The Department also welcomed Dispatcher Witham, a former UConn Police Officer to the ranks of the dispatch center. Officer Daniel Macauley became the department's second K-9 Officer. He along with his K-9 partner, Pito, completed a 16-week training program to become a certified patrol/narcotics dog. By fiscal years end, the Department has continued to have openings in the patrol ranks and the hiring process has been ongoing.

In July, the Chief of Police attended the National Academy program hosted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The National Academy program is an internationally recognized management development program located at the FBI's academy in Quantico, VA. The program is an intense 10-week educational program held in conjunction with the University of Virginia, which combines traditional classroom, fitness and health classes, and breakout lectures with nationally known speakers. The classes consist of 450 law enforcement executives throughout the United States and 30 foreign countries.

During the fiscal year, the Department re-joined the East Central Narcotics Task Force. This is a regional task force consisting of officers from Manchester, Vernon, Glastonbury, and South Windsor. The mission of the task force is to conduct drug investigation with in the four-town region and to cooperate with state and federal task forces. Vernon had been an original member of the Tri-Town Narcotics Task force, which became ECN with the addition of Glastonbury, for many years, but withdrew to join Statewide Narcotics, hosted by the Connecticut State Police.

The Police Department became a member of the Metro Traffic Task Force. This is a regional effort comprised of eight towns that have pooled resources for the enforcement of traffic laws, commercial vehicle enforcement, and accident investigation. The Metro Traffic Task Force received a grant from the State of Connecticut, which provided approximately \$150,000 worth of equipment for accident

investigation and commercial vehicle enforcement. The Department has applied for and received traffic enforcement grant funding in excess of \$30,000 from the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation, Division of Highway Safety to be used in conjunction with the task force. The funding was used to staff additional patrols dedicated to traffic enforcement details. Officers concentrated their efforts on DWI, seatbelt use, speed enforcement and red light violations. The goal of the program was to raise the public's awareness about traffic safety and to reduce the number of traffic accidents in the Town of Vernon.

This year 23 town residents graduated from the Citizens Police Academy. The course offered local residents an inside look into the operations of the Vernon Police Department and the law enforcement profession. The class met once a week for ten consecutive weeks. Some of the topics covered were history of the Vernon Police Department, search and seizure, accident investigation, criminal investigation, and DUI enforcement.

### **Planning and Training:**

The Police Department devoted over 7,280 hours to training during the year. Three new Officers and one new Dispatcher completed all or part of their basic training and supervised field training during the year, including one certified Officer hired as a lateral transfer from another department. New Officers complete a Basic Recruit Training Program of over 680 hours at the Connecticut Police Academy followed by a Supervised Field Training Program. During Supervised Field Training, recruit Officers receive one-on-one training and supervision from a specially trained Field Training Officer for a minimum of 560 hours. Recruit Officers' work through four phases of increasingly difficult and challenging fieldwork and are subject to daily evaluations. All new Officers must successfully complete this demanding program in order to receive their Connecticut Police Officer Certification. Renewal of this certification through mandatory in-service training is required every three years. New Dispatchers must complete state mandated training in Emergency Telecommunication, Emergency Medical Dispatch and the Connecticut On-Line Law Enforcement Communications Teleprocessor System as well as a similar Field Training Program.

The Police Department conducts in-service training to maintain Police Officer certifications and to meet various state and federal training mandates. Vernon participates in the Capitol Region In-Service Training Program, in which Officers receive training required for recertification by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC). Training subjects include Officer safety and use of force, sexual violence, legal update, bigotry and bias crimes, civil liability, juvenile law, gangs, human relations, domestic violence and other subjects. All Officers from the Chief of Police to the newest Police Officer take part in the Department's in-house training program consisting of five additional training days spaced throughout the year. This year's training included firearms classroom and range training including low light shooting, OC spray, expandable baton, Officer survival tactics, blood borne pathogens, TB and airborne pathogens, hazardous materials, meth lab awareness, fire extinguishers, vehicle pursuit, arrest and control tactics and handcuffing. All Officers received training in Immediate Action-Rapid Deployment tactics for active violent incidents including basic breaching and participated in practical exercises in active shooter response under realistic conditions. All Officers participated in use of force decision situations training using FX Simunition weapons. This training requires officers to make use of force decisions and to apply force against live role players under realistic conditions, which also involve varied light levels and sound effects. All Officers are trained and qualified with the H&K G36K patrol rifle, CTS Super Sock less lethal bean bag round, M26 and X26 Taser and Stinger Spike System tire deflation system. Additional training is required to maintain certification in the Intoxilyzer, Medical Response Technician or Emergency Medical Technician and the COLLECT System.

Fifteen Officers are certified as instructors through the Police Officer Standards and Training Council in subjects including use of force, firearms, shooting decisions, tactical use of weapons (SWAT), arrest and control, OC spray, baton, handcuffing, first responder (emergency medical), police and the public, crimes in progress, building search, hazardous materials, radar, weapons of mass destruction, vehicle stop techniques and personal protection equipment. Some Officers also hold instructor certifications through equipment manufacturers or private training companies.

Officers attend free training classes at the Connecticut Police Academy and other locations in subjects including Interview and Interrogation, Driving While Intoxicated, Sexual Assault Investigation, Drug Interdiction, Crime Scene Investigation, Critical Incident Management, Undercover Drug Investigation, Instructor Development, Field Training Officer and Basic Special Weapons and Tactics. A Detective is being trained in computer forensics through the National White Collar Crime Center.

The Police Department pays for training in specialized areas and to maintain various advanced or instructor certifications. Employees received training in homicide investigation, child abuse, emergency response to terrorism, police bicycle patrol, child passenger safety, crisis negotiations, traffic crash reconstruction, blood borne pathogens and tuberculosis train-the-trainer and other subjects.

Many additional hours were devoted to in-service training of the department's two Police work dogs. The dogs and handlers train with canine teams from other departments on a regular basis and all area departments cooperate by making their on-duty canine teams available to other departments as needed.

The Department continued to cooperate with other area Police departments in solving regional problems by contributing a Team Commander, three tactical Officers and two negotiators to the Capitol Region Emergency Services Team.

**Detective Division:**

During the last fiscal year, the detective division was commanded by Lieutenant John Kelley. The detective division has one sergeant and five detectives assigned. In addition, one officer assigned to the East Central Narcotics Task Force reports to the detective division commander as well as one civilian evidence technician.

The division investigated 225 new cases in fiscal year 2008/2009. Detectives also worked on open cases from previous years. The detective division has an overall clearance rate of 82%. In addition to criminal complaints, the detectives completed 26 pre-employment background investigations for new positions in patrol, dispatch and the records division. Detectives assisted the patrol division with processing crime scenes, interviewing witnesses and suspects and the resulting arrests. The detective division works in conjunction with the States Attorneys Office, Department of Children and Families (DCF) and other state and federal agencies. The following is a breakdown of investigations conducted during the last fiscal year:



<b>CRIME TYPE</b>	<b>NEW CASES</b>
Assault	8 (including 3 separate shooting incidents)
Arson	2
Assist Outside Agency	11
Bad Checks	10
Background Investigations	26
Burglary	35
Child Abuse/Neglect	6
Fraud	13
Identity Theft	5
Larceny	21
Missing Persons	3
Robbery	4
Sexual Assault	19
Untimely Death	14
Weapons Violations	7
Writ Services	7
Narcotic Investigations	15
Sex Offender Registry Violations	8
Other	6

#### **Patrol Division:**

The patrol division continues to try to maintain adequate staffing to replace Officers who had left due to retirement or resignation. New Officers hired to fill existing vacancies take approximately twelve months of academy and field training before they are able to patrol on their own. The patrol division is staffed by 2 Lieutenants, 6 Sergeants and 26 officers.

During fiscal year 2008-2009 the patrol division responded to 19,682 calls for service. The following is a break down of the patrol activity:

<b>Crimes Against Persons</b>		<b>Crimes Against Property</b>	
Murder	1	All Other Larcenies	129
Negligent Manslaughter	1	Burglary	77
Rape-Forcible	2	Arson	1
Rape-Statutory	4	Vandalism	91
Sexual Assault with an Object	1	Theft from Building	20
Forcible Fondling	6	Theft from Motor Vehicle	46
Incest	2	Theft of MV Parts	4
Robbery	12	Theft from Coin Device	1
Intimidation	5	Shoplifting	108
Kidnap/Abduction	1	Motor Vehicle Theft	25
Family Offenses	69	Trespass of Real Property	66
Aggravated Assault	15	Purse-Snatching	1
Simple Assault	80	Stolen property Offenses	1
Impersonation	8		
<b>Other Crimes</b>		<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
Counterfeiting/Forgery	19	Driving Under Influence	194
Wire Fraud	4	Summons Tickets	809
Bad Checks	10	Infractions Tickets	1,418
Credit Card/ATM Fraud	10	Written Warnings	3,401
Impersonation/Swindle	1	Parking Tickets	456

Embezzlement	2	Liquor Law Violations	14
Weapons Law Violations	16	Drunkenness	15
Promoting Prostitution	1	Runaway	24
Drug/Narcotic Violation	215	Motor Vehicle Accidents	1,176
Drug Equipment Violations	101	Untimely Deaths	23
Disorderly Conduct	422	Adult Arrests Male	1,799
All Other Offenses	349	Adult Female Arrests	599
		Juvenile Arrest Male	118
		Juvenile Arrest Female	12

The patrol division is directly supported by a dedicated staff of 9 civilian dispatchers. The Police Dispatchers handle both the routine and emergency complaints phoned into the dispatch center as well as deal with walk in complaints to the Police Department. Police Dispatchers are responsible for communication with other Police agencies via the Collect and NCIC computer systems and obtaining information for patrol officers.

#### **Records Division:**

The Records Division is currently staffed by Records Supervisor, Louis Palshaw and 3 full time records Clerks. The Records Division is responsible for the filing of more than 12,000 cases, data entry into the Department's records management system, preparing court transmittals, preparing weekly payroll for the 65 members of the Department, processing pistol permits, solicitor and raffle permits, precious metals permits, pawn permits, billing false alarm fines, filing and maintaining motor vehicle violation records, billing private duty hours worked by officers, sending notices for unpaid parking violations, responding to Freedom of Information (FOI) requests and the production of those records for citizens, lawyers, and insurance companies and the generating and reporting crime statistics to the State Police.

Access to Police reports is controlled by several state laws, the most familiar of which is the Freedom of Information Act. However, several other laws dealing with the criminal justice procedures and health information privacy also determine the availability of police records. Any citizen with questions regarding the availability of records can contact the records division during normal business hours. A request for a copy of a record must be made in writing and the cost is fifty (.50) cents per side of paper used. Other types of records are available for a fee. All revenues collected by the police department are deposited into the Town General Fund. The following is a break down of fees collected.

Report Fees	\$2,310.30
Pistol permits	\$5,105.00
Raffle Permits	\$150.00
Solicitor Permits	\$695.00
Alarms	\$1,625.00
Outside Work	\$192,528.11
Precious Metal Permits	\$30.00
Pawn Permits	\$25.00
Fingerprinting	<u>\$4,320.00</u>
	<u>\$206,788.41</u>

#### **SPECIAL PROGRAMS:**

##### **Community Policing – Rockville**

Officer Steve Chipman became the department's sole full-time Community Policing Officer in Rockville after the officer assigned to that position was reassigned as a K-9 Officer. Officer Chipman works out of the Ward Street Sub-Station. Officer Chipman handles all criminal and motor vehicle complaints in the

heart of Rockville, and works closely with the Vernon Housing Authority, Vernon Youth Services, the Vernon Parks and Recreation Department, Vernon Public Works Department, Vernon Building Official, Vernon Fire Marshal, North Central Health District, Vernon Senior Center, Rockville Downtown Business Association, Tri-Town and Cornerstone Shelters as well as businesses and residents.

Aside from handling service complaints, Officer Chipman performs both foot and bicycle patrols in the Rockville area and works on numerous crime prevention programs. He also provides many personal safety lecture programs to civic groups throughout the community. These programs include: Identify Theft, Crimes of Opportunity, Crime Prevention for Seniors, Being a Wise Consumer, Drug Awareness, Bike Safety, Health Care Fraud, the Community and the Police and Gang Awareness. Officer Chipman is a member of the Vernon Community Network (VCN), a fundraising committee member for the Bicentennial Committee and works on a joint task force with Youth Services, Kid Safe and the Cornerstone Community Center working toward finding alternatives for at-risk juveniles in the Rockville area.

#### **East Central Narcotics Task Force**

During FY 2008-2009, Officer Charles Hicking began his assignment with the Task Force after Vernon Police left the Statewide Narcotics Task Force overseen by the Connecticut State Police. Members of the ECNTF have met with Vernon Detectives and the Community Policing Officer to coordinate investigative efforts to reduce the sale of narcotics within our community.

#### **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER – ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL**

The full time assignment of a Vernon Police Officer to the Rockville High School began in 1994 and a partnership between the Vernon Board of Education and the Police Department continues through today. Officer Earl Middleton attended a total of 170 days of classes at RHS.

The position of School Resource Officer is a unique position within the school - daily contact with staff, students and faculty is part of the day-to-day operations at the school. Working in conjunction with administrators, the SRO must be available as a Law Enforcement Officer, Law Related Educator and Law Related Counselor as this is very much a part of the daily routine.

The fall of 2008, the administration at Rockville High School invited the Vernon Police Department to assist them with a (K-9) Canine search for illegal drugs. The policy was coordinated between Police and school administrators, which was later passed by the Vernon Board of Education. Future searches will be conducted according to policy.

#### **Instruction**

Officer Middleton has instructed The Introduction to Criminal Justice curriculum along with RHS staff. The instruction is in accordance with Manchester Community College curriculum. A total of 2 classes a day were held and there were two field trips to the York Correctional Facility in Niantic.

#### **SRO DUTIES**

Daily duties include such activities as conflict resolution, law related counseling in various areas, student/parent meetings, criminal investigations, and police related assists for both faculty and students. The following is a breakdown of those activities:

Criminal cases investigated	141
Incidents in which arrests were made	34
Number of Persons Arrested	50
Classes as Guest Speaker	45
Field Trips	1
Special Presentations	5
Student Assists	1
Parent Conferences	40
Faculty Assists	520
Canine Assist	1

# UTILITIES

---

## Water Pollution Control

---

### **AUTHORITY MEMBERS:**

The following people served as members of the Water Pollution Control Authority during the Fiscal Year: Chairman, E. Mason Thrall III; Vice Chairman, Melissa Shannon; John Anderson, Gary Leavitt, and Carl Schaefer.

### **DEPARTMENT HEAD:**

David R. Ignatowicz, Director

Arnold T. Bevins, Assistant Director

George Rostkowski, Business Manager

### **LOCATION OF AUTHORITY:**

Regular Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month in the Conference Room at the Water Pollution Control Facility to review assessments, regulations, sewer user charges; developers permit agreements and matters concerning the sewer collection system and the wastewater treatment plant.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES:**

The Water Pollution Control Authority consists of five members appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Town Council. All members may serve a maximum of two consecutive full terms of three years each. The Authority has all the powers and duties as set forth in Chapter 103 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut and shall exercise its powers and duties throughout the Town.

The Authority is responsible for the maintenance and operation of the sewage collection system, the wastewater treatment facility, the issuance of fees and collection of fees such as sewer user charges, special sewer assessments, sewer connection and inspection fees, plus the enforcement of laws, rules and regulations under the Authority's jurisdiction.

### **SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:**

The Wastewater treatment plant, located at 100 Windsorville Road is an advanced treatment facility designed to process an average of 7.1 million gallons of wastewater per day. Sewage is collected from Vernon, Tolland and Ellington and portions of Manchester and South Windsor through approximately 112 miles of sewer lines of various sizes. There are also 7 pumping stations that assist the conveyance of flow to the plant. During the past year, approximately 1.4 billion gallons of raw sewage was treated with an average flow of 3.82 million gallons per day. In addition to this, 5.78 million gallons of septic tank waste was transported to the plant for disposal and 169,314 gallons of permitted non-residential wastewater was transported to the plant via tanker trucks and successfully treated.

The plant operates under State and Federal regulations as stipulated in the Town's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, CT-0100609. Treated water is discharged into the Hockanum River, classified by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection as a water quality limited stream. This requires a high degree of treatment from the Vernon plant because it makes-up such a large portion of the river's flow.

The requirements for Vernon's wastewater treatment include reducing the amount of suspended solids, biochemical oxygen demand and ammonia-nitrogen, all of which are present in wastewater. Once the wastewater enters the plant it goes through three distinct stages of treatment. Primary treatment consists of separating the solids from the water by a gravity settling process. Next, the water flows to aeration basins to a biological process (secondary treatment). Organic matter that remains in suspension in the water after primary treatment is used as food for microorganisms in the aeration tank. By providing adequate oxygen through air diffusers, the microorganisms are able to reproduce and breakdown most of the organic matter into very simple elements. Excess microbes are removed from the waste-stream as sludge. The Vernon plant is unique because powdered activated carbon is added to the secondary treatment system. The carbon not only adsorbs refractory compounds in the wastewater, but also creates more surface area where a higher degree of biological activity can occur in a relatively small basin. In the final stage of treatment, the water goes through sand filters followed by disinfection using a chlorine solution. This destroys any pathogenic or disease causing bacteria. After disinfection, any residual chlorine is removed. Before the treated water is discharged to the Hockanum River, the dissolved oxygen content in the water is raised to a minimum of 7 parts per million by the use of fine bubble air diffusers.

The key indicators that determine how well a sewage treatment plant is operating are the removal of BOD (Biochemical Oxygen Demand) and suspended solids. When bacteria or "bugs" found in wastewater utilize suspended or dissolved organic matter as food, they also use up the dissolved oxygen in the water. The amount of bug food (or strength of sewage) in wastewater is measured by incubating a sample mixed with aerated water for five days. The more food the bugs in the sample consume, the more dissolved oxygen they use up. We measure the drop in oxygen and call it Biochemical Oxygen Demand. The Vernon plant averaged 98.2% removal of BOD and 96.9% removal of suspended solids indicating successful treatment of the incoming wastewater. The treatment plant is also designed to achieve nitrification. That is, to convert organic and ammonia-nitrogen which are normally found in sewage, to a more stable form called nitrate prior to being discharged from the plant. Due to its stability, it does not stress the dissolved oxygen levels naturally found in the Hockanum River, which otherwise could adversely affect aquatic life. The Federal EPA and CT DEP have adopted limits for the number of pounds of nitrogen per day that will be allowed to be discharged from treatment plants tributary to the Long Island Sound. This will require the plant to go beyond converting ammonia to nitrate. It will necessitate the reduction of nitrogen by converting it to a gaseous state, a process called denitrification.

The Town retained the engineering firm of Malcolm Pirnie of Middletown, CT under town Contract # 760, to conduct a feasibility study and to recommend process alternatives for achieving nitrogen reduction. The planning study was completed in December 2007 and was submitted to the CT DEP in January 2008. Upon review and approval by the DEP, the Town must consider options for providing advanced treatment. In addition to the nitrogen reduction, the Town of Vernon has been advised by the CT DEP that future requirements for reduction of another nutrient, phosphorus, are pending from the Federal Environmental Protection Agency and that Vernon should plan for upgrading the treatment facility for both of these elements. The required limits for phosphorus reduction have not been established yet, but a limit of 0.2 milligrams per liter is what EPA has proposed.

Early in the fiscal year, the Water Pollution Control Department replaced two of its three influent sewage pumps, which had failed between January and July of 2008. A third pump also failed in April 2009 and a replacement has been ordered. It is scheduled for delivery in November of 2009. The pumps are 66 inches in diameter, 45 feet long, steel, internal lift type pumps that lift raw wastewater

into the treatment plant process flow. Upon inspection of the pumps, the cause of failure was most likely due to hydrogen sulfide corrosion of the internal flights of the pump. They have been in service since May 1997. The barrels of the pumps are totally enclosed so deterioration of the pumps could not have been anticipated. In order to continue to meet the needs of variable plant flows and state discharge permit requirements, back-up diesel pumps were rented and put on standby while the new pumps were being fabricated. The total expenditure for replacing two of the three pumps, including removal and installation during the fiscal year was \$466,617.

The wastewater treatment plant is equipped with a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA) that was upgraded during the year. This is a computerized monitoring system that receives data continually from over 2,200 points within the plant and provides constant monitoring of the treatment process. Among the information it records are plant flow rates, dissolved oxygen levels, process pumping volumes, chemical tank levels, equipment operation status and trouble alarm systems. Since the last upgrade at the plant over 10 years ago, the software has become outdated and was no longer supported by the manufacturer. After a near loss of historical data due to a server crash in June 2008 which was subsequently recovered by the Vernon Data Processing Department, operating software and computer hardware was upgraded to current standards. The total cost for the SCADA upgrade was \$70,587.

The Dart Hill Road pump station was upgraded under Town Contract # 847, issued to Weston and Sampson, Inc., with work commencing on July 30, 2008. The pump station, built in 1974, had three close-coupled centrifugal pumps and motors installed to replace the original extended shaft pumps. In addition, new suction piping, isolation valves and check valves along with a portion of the force main and a new flow meter and meter pit were installed. At the end of the fiscal year, the contract was near completion and within budget. The total construction contract cost was \$269,000 with \$176,553 funded from town improvements bonds and the remaining \$92,447 from the sewer connection account. The station should now remain reliable for many years to come.

In addition to operating the treatment facility twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, the Water Pollution Control Department also has an ongoing maintenance program for continued flushing and cleaning of the sanitary sewer mains on town-owned streets and rights-of-way in Vernon. The Water Pollution Control Department also responded to 1,274 Call-Before-You-Dig requests, as required, during the fiscal year.

Vernon has inter-municipal sewer agreements with those contributing communities who utilize the treatment plant and who support the cost of annual operation and maintenance through sewer user charges. In addition, contributing communities pay a portion of the capital cost of the treatment plant based on their allocated portion of the plant design capacity. Of the plant's design capacity of 7.1 million gallons/day, 90,000 gallons per day is allocated to Manchester; 115,280 gallons per day to South Windsor; 400,000 gallons per day to Tolland and 1,020,000 gallons per day to Ellington leaving 5,474,720 gallons per day allocated to Vernon.

The operations and maintenance budget for the plant and the sewer collection system, approved by the Water Pollution Control Authority and the Town Council, for fiscal year 2008/09, was \$5,629,050. Revenues to fund the budget are generated through a dedicated sewer user charge in which users are billed on a quarterly basis. The charge for sewer use is \$5.29/1000 gallons of metered water used. For the average household, this equated to a charge of \$69.00 per quarter. After compiling water

consumption meter readings, approximately 30,000 sewer user bills are sent out per year, and the business office processes the payments.

The Water Pollution Control Authority would like to recognize the contributions of a long time employee, Kenneth A. Luurtsema, Sr., who passed away on March 29, 2009. Ken was an electrician who worked at the Water Pollution Control Facility for over 28 years. He will be greatly missed, not only for his expertise and dedication to the Town of Vernon as a master electrician, but also for his willingness to serve and the many friendships he developed over the years with his fellow employees and citizens of the Town of Vernon.