



# TOWN OF VERNON

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### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

July 30, 2021

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## **National Night Out Returns to Downtown Vernon**

### **FREE COVID-19 Vaccinations Available at Event**

**(VERNON, Connecticut)** – National Night Out returns to downtown Vernon on Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, and the Rockville Community Alliance, Vernon Community Network, Vernon Police Department and more than 40 local organizations have exciting plans.

The event is scheduled for 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Ladd & Hall parking lot in Rockville. The entire community is invited. There will be **FREE** food and ice cream, **FREE** school supplies, **FREE** amusements including a bounce house and a bubble machine, and other giveaways.

People can also receive a **FREE** COVID-19 Vaccination from Vernon's nationally-recognized community vaccination program. All three vaccines will be available.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign intended to promote partnerships between police and residents, foster a sense of community and make neighborhoods safer, better places to live.

"National Night Out is a great opportunity for our police officers to meet our residents in a fun, informal atmosphere," Vernon Mayor Dan Champagne said. "Partnerships make our community strong, and the partnership between our police officers and our residents is good for everyone."

Newly appointed Police Chief John Kelley will attend along with a team of officers who are looking forward to meeting with residents.

"National Night Out has always been a big deal for the police department and something we look forward to," said Chief Kelley, who has served with the department for 25 years. "We get to meet and talk with the people we serve, share information, hear their ideas and concerns, and continue to build relationships."

In addition to meeting with police, community leaders, and social service organizations, residents can learn about programs that are available to the community.

“Bringing families and children together to get to know their police officers builds a sense of community,” said Tom DiDio of the Rockville Community Alliance.

In the event of rain, National Night Out will be moved to Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Vernon firefighters and police will bring equipment for a “touch a truck” event for children. Miss Greater Rockville and her Court will also attend.

### **About the Town of Vernon**

The Town of Vernon is a celebrated place to live, work and visit. From its beautiful parks and lakes, to its vast trails and historic homes and buildings, Vernon is a resilient and thriving community that promotes the health and wellbeing of its residents and values the natural environment. With a resident population of approximately 30,000 and occupying 18.03 square miles, Vernon combines a balanced appreciation of history, and a strong economic base for growth, both residential and commercial. Located 15 minutes east of the Connecticut capital of Hartford, and 25 miles from the City of Springfield, Massachusetts, the Town of Vernon is strategically located in “New England's Knowledge Corridor” with close proximity to some of the top colleges and universities in the country.

Designated a certified Sustainable Community, the Town of Vernon offers a wide range of benefits and services to its residents. The Town of Vernon is a full-service municipality that practices a management philosophy of continuous quality improvement. To learn more about the Town of Vernon, please call (860) 870- 3670 or visit [www.vernon-ct.gov](http://www.vernon-ct.gov).

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