

# TOWN OF VERNON

## Office of the Mayor

14 Park Place • Vernon, CT 06066

Tel: (860) 870-3600 • Fax: (860) 870-3580

[www.Vernon-CT.gov](http://www.Vernon-CT.gov)



### MEDIA ADVISORY

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#### Press Contact:

David Owens, Communications Specialist

Desk (860) 870-3574

Cell (860) 494-5973



**Daniel A. Champagne**  
*Mayor*

**Michael J. Purcaro**  
*Town Administrator*

**Dawn R. Maselek**  
*Assistant Town Administrator*

## Town of Vernon to Honor Fallen Firefighters

***Fox Hill Tower and Vernon Fire Stations to be Illuminated in Red on Friday to Observe the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's Light the Night Event***

**(VERNON, Connecticut)** – Fox Hill Tower in Vernon's Henry Park will be illuminated in red light from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Friday, October 1, 2021 to honor firefighters who have died in the line of duty. Vernon fire stations will also be illuminated with red light as the Town of Vernon Fire Department observes the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's *Light the Night* event.

"As we see on a daily basis, our volunteer firefighters are always there when we call and do so much for our community," Vernon Mayor Dan Champagne said. "Each time they answer a call, they are placing their lives on the line. It's important to recognize that commitment and to remember those firefighters our nation has lost in the line of duty."

Last year, Vernon Fire Chief Steve Eppler approached Mayor Champagne and Town Administrator and Emergency and Risk Management Director Michael Purcaro about a plan to illuminate fire stations with red light to honor fallen firefighters and pay tribute to their everyday heroic work. That discussion led to including the landmark Fox Hill Tower in the *Light the Night* event.

"This year in Connecticut we mourned firefighters who gave their last full measure," Administrator Purcaro said. "We must always honor our firefighters for what they do, and never forget those who have given their lives in service of others."

"We work very hard to make what can be dangerous work as safe as possible," Chief Eppler said. "Everything we do in terms of training and the way we respond to calls is geared toward keeping our firefighters safe."

Each October the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland, marks Firefighter Memorial Day weekend with a memorial service, the *Light the Night* event and other activities.

"It's a way to remember and recognize those who have given the ultimate sacrifice," Chief Eppler said.

Several landmarks around the nation have been illuminated during *Light the Night*. Fox Hill Tower is an iconic location in Vernon. It is formally known as the War Memorial Tower and it sits at the summit of Fox Hill. It was modeled after a 1,500-year-old tower near Poitiers, France, and built between 1937 and 1939 with Works Progress Administration and local funds. The 72-foot tower is also the centerpiece of Vernon's town seal.

### **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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