

TOWN OF VERNON

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Vernon Partners with Rediscovering History, Inc. to Clean and Repair Stones at Historic Burial Ground

(VERNON, Connecticut) – The Town of Vernon Cemetery Department and Rediscovering History, a volunteer organization dedicated to cleaning up and restoring historic cemeteries, will gather Saturday, October 2nd from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Vernon’s Old Dobsonville Cemetery, 160 Talcottville Road to do restoration work.

Volunteers will clean and straighten monuments as well as provide tours of the cemetery, which is also known as Southwest Cemetery. The volunteers will also discuss how stones are carved and explain the importance of cemeteries in understanding a community’s history.

Vernon has a dedicated Cemetery Department that maintains and manages five town-owned cemeteries. Rediscovering History typically clears overgrowth and debris from cemeteries, but that is not necessary in Vernon because the cemeteries are well maintained. That allows volunteers to focus on the monuments.

“In Vernon we take seriously our commitment to properly care for and maintain our cemeteries,” Mayor Dan Champagne said. “We want people to visit our cemeteries, to appreciate the history, beauty and sanctity of these places.”

Since his appointment, Vernon Cemetery Superintendent Travis Clark has worked to implement the mayor’s vision by inviting the public into Vernon’s cemeteries. His team works hard to create calm, peaceful and inviting places where people can walk and relax.

“Cemeteries serve an important function as a place for the burial and remembrance of our relatives and friends,” Clark said. “But they can be so much more. We want people to visit our cemeteries to enjoy the horticulture, the history and the calm, relaxing environment. We want people to feel welcome.”

Michael L. Carroll, the president of Rediscovery History, said his team of volunteers spend most of their time cleaning up neglected cemeteries.

“In cemeteries like Vernon’s, where the grounds are well maintained, you sometimes find stones that need to be straightened,” Carroll said. “Over time the ground moves and that can cause stones to lean. We also find stones that have fallen over and have been covered with years-worth of leaves and other debris. So, we dig them out of the ground and reset them.”

People are welcome to observe the work at Old Dobsonville Cemetery on Saturday. For more information about Rediscovering History, please visit: <https://rediscovering-history.com/>

Parking near the cemetery is limited. People can park on Pleasant View Drive across from the cemetery, then use the crosswalk at Route 83 and Dobson Road to cross Route 83. There is also parking on Miriam Drive, about a quarter mile from the cemetery.

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.

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